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## Peres favours Gaza-Jericho option

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Jericho in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip could be pilot projects for Palestinian autonomy in the territories, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Monday. "It's a blueprint that involves creating two territorial units to try out an autonomy regime even before the signature of a general agreement on such a form of administration in the territories," he told parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee. "Jericho was chosen since there is no Jewish settlement nearby," he was quoted as saying by parliamentary sources. "Under no circumstances will these autonomous regions be closed and Israelis will not need visas to enter them," he added. Mr. Peres praised Palestinians who initially raised the possibility of a Jericho and Gaza first option but noted that there had been no formal discussions on the issue. In a document handed to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during a regional swing last month, the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks recommended a preliminary Israeli disengagement from the Gaza Strip and Jericho region. According to the Palestinians, the Israeli army must withdraw to its sectors, which Israel has not accepted (see story below).

# Jordan Times

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## Israel wants U.S. to pressure N.Korea

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel said Monday it wanted the United States to put pressure on North Korea to stop sending missiles to the Middle East. Deputy Defence Minister Mordechai Gur said Israel supported diplomatic efforts to halt the arms build-up in the region. "The United States has the power to do this, and we must put our trust in it," he said. His comments came after reported U.S. pressure on Israel not to establish diplomatic ties with North Korea, which Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin accused Sunday of selling sophisticated Scud missiles to Syria.

## UAE favours direct talks with Iran

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) supports direct talks with Iran to settle a territorial dispute over three islands in the strategic southern Gulf, UAE official told Kuwait's KUNA news agency Monday. "The UAE believes in a settlement of its dispute with Iran through direct dialogue, without resorting to mediation," said Seif Saad, adding that the emirates had not asked any country to intervene. He was referring to reports of Moroccan mediation efforts between Abu Dhabi and Tehran. UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan is on a private visit to Morocco where he met twice with King Hassan II.

## 5 found in Thai hotel collapse

KORAT, Thailand (AP) Hours after giving up hope of finding more survivors, rescue workers late Monday discovered five women under tonnes of rubble of a hotel that collapsed three days earlier. Authorities had said there was no chance anyone was left alive, and started using cranes and bulldozers to remove the hill of debris. But sifting by hand resumed after signs of life were discovered in a conference room where almost 120 teachers had assembled when the hotel caved in Friday morning. Police said late Monday that at least 95 people were killed in the collapse of the six-storey Royal Plaza hotel in Korat, 220 kilometres northeast of Bangkok (see page 8). The government centre coordinating the search said 50 to 60 people remained inside the rubble. It said 225 people were injured.

## Kurdish party wants federal Iraq

ERBIL (AFP) — Kurdish leader Massud Barzani said he would prefer a federal Iraq to full autonomy for the Kurds at the opening Monday of his party's first ever congress in a Kurdish-controlled area. Speaking at the opening of the 11th congress of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK) in this city of northern Iraq, Mr. Barzani said his party was no longer demanding autonomy from Baghdad, but a federal system of which the Kurdish regional "government" would be a part.

## Pakistan, Afghanistan discuss violence

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — The prime ministers of Pakistan and Afghanistan held talks here Monday on border clashes between Afghanistan and Tajikistan and on repatriating some two million refugees boused in Pakistan since the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. An official statement said Pakistani Prime Minister Moen Qureshi and the new Afghan prime minister, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who arrived here Monday on a three-day official visit, showed a "complete identity" of views on regional and international issues.

## Gunman fires at Nile cruiser

MANFALOUT, Egypt (AP) — A gunman fired at a cruiser carrying British tourists on the Nile Monday, but caused no casualties or damage, the Interior Ministry said. The Royal Orchid cruiser was near the town of Manfalout, 300 kilometres south of Cairo, when a man fired several shots towards the boat. There were no injuries reported among the 44 British passengers.

# U.S. said to reject Gaza-Jericho option

## Washington insisting on early empowerment plan — PLO official

By Wafa Amr  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The U.S. has rejected a Palestinian proposal to implement "final status" arrangements in Gaza and Jericho first, and insists instead on early empowerment in the occupied territories, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said on Monday.

The U.S. has recently informed Palestinians it rejects the Gaza-Jericho option as an impractical suggestion," the official said.

The Gaza-Jericho idea was proposed to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in a Palestinian document in Jerusalem during his regional tour earlier this month.

Palestinian Ambassador to Tunis Hakam Balawi said the idea was initially proposed to revive the stalled 21-month-old peace talks.

Mr. Balawi, who ended a four-day visit to Jordan Sunday, told the Jordan Times that the Gaza-Jericho first "was merely an idea aimed at achieving Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, and linking the final status in these territories to the interim period in the West Bank."

But Mr. Balawi denied statements made earlier this week by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's aide Bassam Abu Sharif suggesting the formation of a Palestinian provisional government in Jericho.

"These were not the PLO's proposals, and Abu Sharif is not authorised to speak on behalf of the PLO," Mr. Balawi said.

Mr. Abu Sharif made the remarks in an interview with the

French daily Liberation published on Saturday. He repeated the comments in an interview on Israel Radio.

Mr. Balawi said that the Gaza-Jericho suggestion was meant only as a model for "final status" arrangements.

According to another PLO official, the arrangements of the "mixed model" approach, as perceived by the Palestinian leadership, would entail the following:

— Setting an agreed timetable for the withdrawal of the Israeli army from the Gaza Strip and from Jericho and its environs.

— It would also include making trilateral agreements with U.N. participation or under U.N. international supervision for arrangements for crossing points (Gaza-Egypt and Jericho-Jordan).

— The establishment of a corridor with air and land links for the free and unimpeded passage of persons and goods, per agreement with international guarantors.

— The U.N. will take over full responsibility for running Gaza and Jericho for a specified period of time as a clear transitional caretaker.

— Elections for local government may be held under U.N. supervision.

— The U.N. will formally hand over its responsibilities to the PLO at the end of the specified transitional period, and the PLO assume all powers of a government.

This arrangement, according to the official, would be linked to interim arrangements in the West Bank whereby elections of a Palestinian authority would be made. This elected authority

would then set up ties with the Gaza-Jericho government pending the implementation of full Israeli withdrawal and the re-emerging of the occupied territories into one entity.

The "mixed-model" proposal caused controversy among Palestinian leaders in Tunis and peace delegates inside the occupied territories. Mr. Arafat was among the strongest advocates of the idea. Officials said Mr. Arafat, who received messages from third parties that Israel was considering withdrawal from Gaza alone, insisted on a package deal including withdrawal from Jericho. Gaza alone would lead to isolation and the fragmentation of the occupied territories, as well as possible Israeli claims that this would represent the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242.

The officials said the idea originally emerged when head-on collisions on issues of substance became inevitable between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators, particularly related to territorial jurisdiction, Jerusalem, withdrawal and settlements, hence negotiations on interim arrangements were proving unworkable.

The officials said the PLO was increasingly concerned to know in advance the final objectives of the peace process, or the features of the permanent status of the occupied territories in view of what are seen as Israel's persistent attempts at manipulating the terms of reference of the peace process and the U.S.

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Husseini says Israel must admit talks with PLO, page 10

# 16 political parties oppose 1-person-1-vote 'on its own'

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An overwhelming majority of licensed Jordanian political parties opposes amending the Election Law if the changes are limited to introducing a one-person-one-vote formula and insists that if amendments are to be introduced then they have to cover other factors in the electoral system, a survey showed Monday.

A telephone poll conducted by the Jordan Times showed that 16 of the 20 licensed parties are against an amendment that brings in a one-person-one-vote formula "on its own."

The four others said they welcomed any change to the Election Law and the present voting formula.

Party spokesmen of the first camp said they felt that any change to the law should be approved by Parliament and that changing the law without parliamentary approval would hurt the democratic process.

Spokesmen and leaders of political parties ranging from the far left to the far right, including the Islamic Action Front (IAF), said the expected change in the Election Law to a one-person-one-vote process should not take place now nor should it be the major change to the law if changes were to be made.

Insistence that Parliament should vote on the issue and the need to introduce more wide-ranging changes such as a redistribution of electoral districts and minority seats were among the many electoral issues raised by political party officials Monday.

Political party activists and spokespersons have been lobbying for a delay in any change to the law in the past three months to no apparent avail. Only four political parties said that they supported an equivocal change in the law.

The right-of-centre Al Ahd Party, the Watan Party and the Party for Progress and Justice and the Arabic Islamic Democratic Party (Doa'a) unequivocally welcomed the expected change.

In a written statement to the Jordan Times, the Jordan National Alliance, a conservative tribal-based party, said: "We are against the one-man-one-vote formula. Although we support equality among all voters and citizens, a wider, more comprehensive framework should be found."

Spokespersons for the Popular Unity Party and Yakadha (Reawakening), both right-of-centre traditional parties, also said that they were against any change to the Election Law at this time.

"This is not the right time to introduce these changes," said Talal Ramahi, secretary general of the Popular Unity Party. "We are against the change to the one-man-one-vote formula," said Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, speaking from his Yakadha election headquarters in Irbid.

Centrist parties such as Al Mustakbal, the Unionist Arab Democratic Party and the Jordan Arab Democratic Party said that in the absence of popular consultation through the now-dissolved Parliament, amending the Election Law would fail to meet the democratic parameters introduced to the Jordanian political arena since 1989.

"We would like to see a democratic system at work, and we believe that any change in such an important law as the Election Law, however temporary, should include consulting Parliament," said the secretary-general of the Jordan Arab Democratic Party, Mueen Qazzaz.

Political observers believe that all parties which were "well represented" in the outgoing Parliament feel they may lose as a result of any change to

the Election Law. "The existing system and division of electoral districts and election formula brought them to Parliament. So they oppose any move that might deprive them of the seats they had," said a former minister, who is a supporter of the one-person-one-vote formula.

Parties whose members held at least one seat in the last Parliament, including the Jordanian Baath Arab Socialist Party and the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, are also against a unilateral change to the Election Law without making changes in the number of electoral districts and other changes pertaining to equal rights and representation of voters.

The parties that accept a limited change which would focus on the one-person-one-vote formula without changing electoral districts, lowering the voting age from 19 to 18 or equalising the demographic distribution of voters are: Al Ahd Party, the Watan Party, the Party for Progress and Justice and Doa'a.

Those who are opposed to a change basically limited to a one-person-one-vote formula are: The Jordan National Alliance, the Popular Unity Party, the Islamic Action Front, Al Mustakbal Party, the Jordanian Democratic Progressive Party, the Jordanian Communist Party, the Jordanian Arab Socialist Baath Party, the Jordan People's Democratic Party, Yakadha, the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, the Freedom Party, the Unionist Arab Democratic Party, the Arab Baath Party for Progress, the Popular Jordanian Arab Party and the Jordanian Arab Democratic Party.

Despite their objections to a limited change in the Election Law, no party has said it would boycott the elections should such a change take place.



His Majesty King Hussein Monday meets with Mauritanian Foreign Minister Mohammad Ould Amin (Petra photo)

## King receives Mauritanian message

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday received a message from Mauritanian President Sid Ahmad Ould Taya. The message, which dealt with Jordanian-Mauritanian relations and issues of common interest, was delivered to King Hussein by Mauritanian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Mohammad Ould Amin at an audience

held at the Royal Court.

Mr. Amin, who arrived in Amman Sunday, also conveyed to the King the appreciation of Mr. Ould Taya and the Mauritanian people.

Expressing pride in Jordanian-Mauritanian relations, King Hussein wished Mr. Ould Taya good health and happiness and the Mauritanian people further progress and prosperity.

The King underlined the need for the Arab states to democratise and protect human rights in order to achieve progress in the Arab World. The audience was attended by Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan and His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the King's military secretary.

# Egyptian hijacker with hoax claim held after plane stormed

Combined agency dispatches

DUESSELDORF — Commandos stormed a hijacked KLM jetliner Monday and arrested an Egyptian hijacker who had demanded freedom for the Muslim cleric whose alleged followers include men charged on the World Trade Centre bombing.

The hijacker, whose claim that he had explosives proved false, was arrested by police commandos after emerging from a toilet in the Dutch jet, police said.

His need to use the toilet apparently gave the last two hostages, the pilot and chief stewardess, the chance to escape out cockpit windows via emergency ropes. Police then stormed the jet.

The hijacker had released the passengers and other crew members earlier, passengers, crew and police all said the hijacker had been unusually calm and not aggressive during the hijacking. Police identified him as Khaled Gharib, 40, of Egypt. Dueseldorf police spokesman Ulf Steinke told a news conference there was no indication Mr. Gharib was a member or sympathiser of a particular political group.

The arrest, without a shot being fired, brought to an end the drama which began Sunday when Mr. Gharib seized the Boeing

737-400 en route from Tunis to Amsterdam.

He had initially demanded to be flown to the United States, where he wanted the release of jailed Egyptian fundamentalist leader Omar Abdul Rahman, suspected of involvement in World Trade Centre bombing in which six people were killed and 1,000 injured.

But the pilot managed to persuade him that a Boeing 737-400 did not carry enough fuel to cross the Atlantic.

The plane was then flown to Dueseldorf where it landed at 3:22 p.m. (1322 GMT) and the hijacker gave the United States until 0700 GMT to free Sheikh Abdul Rahman.

The crew had always felt in control of developments and there had been no panic, Mr. Van der Erden told Dutch Television Monday after he arrived at Amsterdam from Frankfurt aboard his own aircraft.

"We were happy to realise pretty quickly that the hijacker did not have it in for the passengers," he added. "The hijacker was very calm in spite of the noticeable tension in the cockpit."

Sources in the Dutch embassy in Egypt said Mr. Gharib, from Giza just west of Cairo, had been deported from Holland last year

after being arrested for attempted arson and managed to get on the Tunis-to-Amsterdam flight with a cancelled visa.

After forcing the plane to land at Dueseldorf's airport, the hijacker released all 131 passengers from the Boeing and, gradually, five of the plane's seven crew members.

Germany's GSG-9 special police unit stormed the jet at 2:01 a.m. and the hijacker did not have the 20 kilograms of explosives he had claimed to have when he demanded the plane be flown to New York, police said.

"The plane was searched after the hijacker's arrest and we found no explosives," said Mr. Steinke, who commanded the operation for Dueseldorf police.

Mr. Steinke said Mr. Gharib showed no signs of mental disturbance and was to be taken before a judge on Tuesday. The Dutch justice ministry said it did not expect to request extradition since punishment for air piracy in Germany — a minimum of five years in prison — is similar to that in the Netherlands.

Mr. Steinke said Germany was in contact with U.S. officials during the hijacking, but never intended to let the plane leave the ground.

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# Beirut rules out Israeli-sought accord

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon ruled out any security deal with Israel but said Monday it was ready to send hundreds more troops south to the Middle East's most explosive front line.

An estimated 300 Lebanese troops took up positions a week ago in a U.N. zone facing Israel's frontlines after a seven-day Israeli air and artillery bombardment killed about 150 people and wounded more than 600.

Defence Minister Mohsen Daloul said Lebanon would never disarm anti-Israeli guerrillas before the Jewish state withdrew its forces from a self-styled "security zone" in the south.

"There will not be any military committee or security arrangements before Israel pulls out from Lebanon no matter what the consequences are," Mr. Daloul told Reuters in an interview.

Israel has been pressing Beirut at Middle East peace talks to agree to a mechanism to ensure security along its northern border and in the 15-kilometre wide zone it established in southern Lebanon in 1985.

Mr. Daloul said the security of northern Israel would only be guaranteed by a political settlement reached at the peace talks based on U.N. Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. He said guerrilla attacks on

Israeli forces in the zone would continue despite the deployment of Lebanese troops in an area controlled by the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFL).

Mr. Daloul said the token force was sent in to encourage civilians who fled during the Israeli assault to return to their villages and to resolve any local disputes.

He said the force inside the U.N. zone was backed up by two army brigades deployed to the north and added: "We can send in hundreds of soldiers within minutes if there was any trouble."

The minister said Israel's blitz was stopped after U.S. mediation but denied there was a ceasefire agreement.

Israel halted its bombardments and pro-Iranian guerrillas stopped firing rockets into northern Israel after contacts by Washington with Lebanon, Syria and Israel.

"There was no written or vocal agreement on any specified arrangements," Mr. Daloul said. "There was an Israeli aggression that we demanded halted and it was stopped."

He said Lebanese authorities would not move against guerrillas attacking Israeli troops and their allies in the security zone. "When we are sure that the

issue is over and Israel is quitting Lebanon the resistance would be frozen and stopped ...

But as long as Israel remains in Lebanon there is no one ready to disarm the resistance or willing to discuss disarming the resistance," he said. "We are not a police to protect the occupier."

Talks in Damascus

Syria and Lebanon, whose relations are reported to have been strained over the deployment of Lebanese troops near the front line with Israel, opened summit talks in Damascus Monday.

Officials said Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, prime minister Rafik Al Hariri, Parliamentary Speaker Nabih Berri, Deputy Prime Minister Michel Al Murr and Foreign Minister Faris Bouez, all travelled from Beirut for the meeting with President Hafez Al Assad.

Political sources in Beirut said the discussions would focus on the aftermath of the Israeli bombardment of southern Lebanon. They said Mr. Assad was dissatisfied with moves by the Lebanese government in the south taken without consulting Damascus.

Rockets fired at Israelis

Unidentified gunners fired

# Official spokesman confirms Muta plot arrests

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government Monday confirmed that security authorities had uncovered a plot to assassinate His Majesty King Hussein and that 10 suspects, including six students from the military wing of Muta University, were held in connection with the plot.

An official spokesman, in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, also said that the Islamic Liberation Party (ILP) was found to have been involved in the plot and four ILP leaders were among the suspects.

"Towards the end of April (1993) Security authorities uncovered a plot to assassinate His Majesty King Hussein during a graduation ceremony at Muta University in June," said the spokesman. "Six students from the military wing of Muta University were arrested."

"Investigators found that the Islamic Liberation Party was behind the plot."

"Those who took part in the plot, numbering 10 of whom four are from the leadership of the party, were referred to the prosecutor general of the State Security Court since it is the court specialised in such cases."

The spokesman did not say when the case would be tried in court.

The ILP is one of the parties that are still illegal in the country, and did not thus far apply for legalisation, Petra said. Although 20 parties have received legal recognition since the enactment of the political parties law, the party did not apply for licence because it does not recognise the Jordanian Constitution and the National Charter, the news agency said.

For several times in the past, it has attempted to change the regime by resorting to force and violent means, but all its attempts failed. Petra added.

The security sources told the Jordan Times that the public trial at the State Security Court will begin as soon as the investigation into the case is completed, adding that two of the 10 will be tried in absentia if they are not captured before the hearings start. The sources described the suspects as a combination of "soldiers and civilians."

The Tahrir Party was established in the West Bank in the early 1950s, and had a representative in the Jordanian Parliament in 1956.

Although the organisation is known to have plotted against the regime previously, it has no history of carrying out terrorist activities to achieve its goals, principally among which is the creation of Caliphate-like Islamic states.

U.N. plans appeal

A U.N. envoy said Monday the United Nations planned a \$30-million appeal for aid to rebuild South Lebanon.

Nearly all the 300,000 villagers displaced by the fighting had returned, Jan Eliasson, U.N. emergency relief coordinator, said after touring the south on Sunday.

Lebanon needed the aid for both humanitarian reasons and to build stability to avoid new wounds, he said. "I was glad to see that probably

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## Soldiers among 53 on trial in Cairo court

CAIRO (R) — A military court has charged 53 militants, including three from the army, with plotting to overthrow the government in the first such case against army personnel since the murder of President Anwar Sadat.

The militants also included members of the professional elite — engineers, doctors, lawyers and university students.

Waving the Koran from behind an iron cage in the court, the defendants, wearing beards and the white robes of dedicated Muslims, urged the armed forces to rise up and defend Islam.

"The armed forces is the driving force which will liberate the Muslims. You, the army of Egypt, rise up and clear the shame from Muslims," shouted a suspect.

"You, the army of Muslims, are our only hope," he added.

Magdi Salem, another defendant, said: "The army of Egypt should not be dragged into side battles. The army should not be the army of a leader. It must not stay like that. The army of Egypt should rise up to defend the Muslims."

Military prosecutor Brigadier-General Wagdi Al Laithi accused the militants, seven of whom are at large, of forming an illegal group and plotting to overthrow the government, assassinate public figures and possessing arms and leaflets inciting hatred against the government.

The 53 include two military cadets and an officer in a reserve unit. If convicted they could all face the death penalty.

A cadet identified as Sameeh, 18, said he was arrested at the military academy because he advocated a purist Islamic state.

"I do not belong to any group or party. I was spreading Al Dawa'a (Islamic call) among young men in the academy," he said.

The controversial military courts, set up by President Hosni Mubarak to bypass normal judicial practice and ensure harsh

punishment for militants, have sent 15 men to the gallows in the last six months.

Militant lawyers said a civilian court verdict acquitting 24 militants on Saturday of the 1990 murder of Parliament Speaker Rifaat Al Mahjoub was a blow to the government.

The civil judge accused security forces of resorting to torture to extract confessions to justify their incompetence and impotence in catching the real culprits.

The 53 were among 248 accused to belonging to a previously unknown group, The Vanguard of the New Holy Struggle, whose leader, Aymao Zawahri, lives in Afghanistan and Iran.

Militant lawyers said five other army officers were among the others to be tried soon. It was the first time military personnel have been implicated in militant violence in Egypt, which closely vets its police and armed forces for traces of sympathy with Muslim militants.

Khaled Ismailboul, a junior army officer, led militants from an organisation called Jihad which assassinated Mr. Sadat at a military parade in 1981.

Security sources said Mr. Zawahri, a medical doctor jailed for three years in Mr. Sadat's killing, was trying to reorganise Jihad when his group was caught.

Jihad, which advocates holy war as the only means to topple the Egyptian government and apply Islamic Sharia law, focuses on recruiting Islamists in the army on the grounds that it is the only force capable of toppling the government.

Defendants showed journalists scars on their legs and necks which they said were from torture by electric shocks, boiling water, beatings and whipping by police to extract confessions.

"We just want to be treated as animals. The treatment we are receiving is far below animals," said Nizar Ghourab, one of the suspects, who is a lawyer. He said he would wish death rather than the

long torture sessions and interrogations by police.

The London-based Islamic Council called Moody for Egypt to release all political prisoners following the acquittal of the 27 charged in connection with the Mahjoub assassination.

The council described the verdict as a slap in the face of the country's President Hosni Mubarak, and a statement called for "the strongest pressure to be put on Mubarak and his regime to cease their practice of torture and release all political prisoners."

The council was set up in London in 1973, and has representatives in most European countries. It claims to be independent, and says it maintains strong links with many governments in Muslim countries.

An official Egyptian daily Monday slammed the court for acquitting the 27.

The editor-in-chief of Al Gumbhuriya, Mahfuz Al Ansari, wrote that the court's presiding judge had acquitted the defendants despite "a wealth of evidence" to convict them.

The verdict was based on the fact that security services "resorted to illegal means, including torture, to obtain evidence," which may constitute "a (separate) crime which must not be another committed in broad daylight," he argued.

Addressing himself to the judge, Mr. Ansari wrote: "Extorting confessions through torture is illegal, but what do you say of premeditated murder?"

The court verdict still needs to be ratified by President Mubarak, lawyers said.

But militant sources feared that Mr. Mubarak, acting under an emergency anti-terrorism law, would cancel the sentences and order a re-trial of the 24 as he did with preacher Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman.



MAJLIS DEBATE: Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani addresses the Majlis, the new cabinet ministers (see page 10). At right is Majlis Speaker Hojatolislam Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri (AFP photo)

## Nearly 300 killed in clashes between Turkish forces, rebels

ANKARA (AFP) — Some 285 people, including 275 Kurds, died in weekend clashes between Kurdish separatists and government troops in southeastern Turkey, where demonstrations were held marking the 10th anniversary of the armed Kurdish rebellion.

At least 250 members of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) were killed during widespread government sweeps against a group of up to 400 rebels on Mount Buzul, located in the southeastern triangle of Cukirca, Hakkari and Yuksekova, Turkish authorities in the area said.

Commando units carried out a "cleansing" operation after fighter-bombers and helicopters shelled the area for about seven hours beginning at dawn Saturday. Local authorities said six rebel groups from different regions had gathered on the mount.

They said the Turkish army was chasing some of the rebels trying to flee to Iraq and that the operation was still underway Monday.

Unal Erkan, the head of the Diyarbakir region which is under a state of emergency, said an official declaration would be made as soon as the final death

toll is available.

Meanwhile, at least 20 people died in weekend clashes between Kurdish separatists and government troops in eastern Anatolia.

Three people, including one PKK member, were killed Sunday near Malazgirt, in the eastern province of Mus, where government troops tried to stop a PKK demonstration that included 2,000 villagers from the area, according to a communiqué from local authorities.

Some 142 people, including five PKK members, were arrested and weapons were seized, authorities said.

Six rebels, including a woman, were killed Sunday in Diyaradin, in the eastern region of Agri, when government troops attempted to stop a convoy of trucks at a checkpoint. One Turkish soldier was killed and another injured during an exchange of gunfire.

The death toll in Diyaradin brings to 20 the number of people killed since Saturday when 10 Kurdish demonstrators died in Digor, in the eastern province of Kars.

Nearly 7,000 people have died since the Kurds launched their insurrection in southeast Turkey in 1984.

Meanwhile Ankara authorities

were Monday still unable to confirm or deny reports that Kurdish rebels had kidnapped two German tourists and a New Zealander. The supposed kidnapping was reported in Dusseldorf, Germany, on Sunday by the Kurd-Ha news agency, which is reportedly close to the rebels.

Diplomats and Turkish government officials were checking out the claim.

The claim, released in Europe said the three foreigners — a New Zealander and two Germans — because they lacked "visas" to travel in the southeast, which the fighters would like to see become a separate Kurdistan.

Last week, the PKK released six foreigners, including four Frenchmen, an Australian woman and a Briton after holding them hostage for weeks.

Turkey's eastern and southeastern regions have become risky for travel. Several Western governments have issued warnings to their citizens to stay away from Turkey's troubled regions.

The PKK identified the three they claimed were taken Sunday were named as Albrecht Christoph Lehman and Henry Butler of Germany and Paul Thompson of New Zealand.

## U.N. changes tactics in Somalia

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Three companies of U.S. soldiers surrounded a handful of houses in southern Mogadishu before dawn Sunday, then forced their way in without gunfire to search for weapons.

It was a new tactic in the standoff in this embattled city between the 28-nation military coalition under the blue U.N. flag and the militia of renegade warlord General Mohammed Farrah Aided.

"We've taken fire in that area in the past," Major David Stockwell told reporters. "This was a way to do it smarter."

Some observers also saw the operation as a possible dress rehearsal for an attempt to capture Gen. Aided, wanted by the United Nations in the ambush slayings of 24 Pakistani peacekeepers on June 5.

The U.N. military force has conducted a number of arms searches in the same area in recent weeks, but always with far fewer men covering a much larger territory.

This time more than 300 members of the U.S. Army's Quick Reaction Force (QRF) cordoned off an area less than a block square and used loud speakers to order out the inhabitants of houses thought to hold arms caches.

Blackhawk helicopters hovered overhead, Maj. Stockwell said, and Cobra helicopter gunships

were on standby alert.

"We didn't want any interference because it was a populated area, so we told some folks to stay inside and told the folks inside the area to come out," said Maj. Stockwell, the U.N. military spokesman.

"There was some resistance, and I sort of take that to mean that some of the folks inside the houses were a little bit stubborn, so we had to use a little (tear) gas and concussion grenades," Maj. Stockwell said.

There were no casualties as a result of any pyrotechnics, he said.

Maj. Stockwell said the raid was prompted by an informant's tip, but produced only "nickle and dime small arms stuff." Three Somalis were taken into custody for questioning, he said.

Jonathan Howe, the retired U.S. admiral who heads the U.N.'s Somali operation, ordered Gen. Aided's arrest on June 16 and put a \$25,000 reward on his head.

Mr. Howe has acknowledged that U.N. forces came close to capturing the warlord at least twice, and have passed on other opportunities for fear of causing unnecessary civilian casualties.

When the search for Gen. Aided began, the United Nations reportedly considered using a specially trained U.S. unit, such as a Delta Force team, to try to capture him.

A U.N. official, speaking on

condition of anonymity, said the Americans initially scrapped that idea for fear of making the U.N. operation appear too dominated by Washington.

But since the deaths of four U.S. soldiers in an explosion on Aug. 8, "the Americans appear to have taken the gloves off," the source said.

Meanwhile about 2,000 Aided supporters gathered Sunday morning near the former stadium in Lenin Avenue to protest at U.N. policies.

They carried banners proclaiming: "Down with Clinton" and "long live Aided."

The U.N. special envoy to Somalia, Lansana Koukate, has begun talks with leaders of Gen. Aided's Somali National Alliance in a bid to stop the clashes between the militia and peacekeepers.

Gen. Aided's right-hand man Mohammed Awele has said: "We want to find a peaceful solution to this conflict."

A possible solution to the U.N.-Aided standoff, it is said here, would be for the warlord general to go into exile, perhaps in Yemen. But there has been no indication that Gen. Aided would agree to leave.

Aided's supporters maintain they are not responsible for the harassment of U.N. troops. It is said that several Somali sub-clans could be trying to profit from the clashes to weaken Gen. Aided's Hebr Gedir clan.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Sudan coup plot trial to begin shortly

KHARTOUM (R) — The trial of 90 people, including a former army chief and a former security chief, on charges of plotting to overthrow Sudan's Islamic government will begin shortly, the head of the investigating committee said. Abdul Rahman Ibrahim, quoted by the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) on Sunday, said the investigation was almost complete and those defendants who had not fled the country were about to be tried in open court. Mr. Ibrahim said 14 of the accused were in the country and had been given the right to meet their relatives and hire lawyers to defend them. The state would provide lawyers for those unable to afford the cost of a lawyer, he said. He gave no precise date for the start of the trial and no details of the charges but the accused face life imprisonment or death if found guilty.

### League envoy begins Gulf tour

CAIRO (R) — An Arab League envoy left for Saudi Arabia Monday on the start of a Gulf tour to follow up Arab promises of \$500 million to aid for southern Lebanon, badly damaged in Israeli bombardment last month. Ambassador Mayhoub Al Mayhoub, told reporters the aim of his mission to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates was to implement the resolutions of a league meeting in Damascus that pledged the aid. The ambassador said he would deliver messages to Gulf leaders from league Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid, who is due to start a Gulf tour of his own next week. Dr. Abdul Meguid visited Beirut on Saturday seeking to ensure that Arab aid would be efficiently channelled to South Lebanon.

### Chadian foes in peace pact — Libyan agency

TRIPOLI (AFP) — The Chadian government and rebels have signed a peace accord, mediated by Libya and Sudan, Libya's official JANA news agency reported Monday. The deal was signed Sunday after talks between Mohammed Ali Abdallah, military advisor to Chadian President Idriss Deby, and Abbas Koty, the head of a rebel movement active in the east, JANA said. The two men had held several meetings since Wednesday, the agency said. Mr. Koty's supporters have been held responsible by the authorities in Ndjamena for a massacre of 82 people at Chokoyam in the eastern Chad region bordering on Sudan on Aug. 4. Mr. Koty, Mr. Deby's former defence minister, fled Ndjamena in June 1992 after he was accused of involvement in a failed coup plot against the Chadian military strongman. Government radio in Chad later announced that Mr. Koty was expected in the capital following signature of the peace pact.

### Seven convicted criminals hanged in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Seven convicted murderers were hanged Monday in Egypt's biggest mass hanging of common criminals, the official Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported. The seven were convicted of premeditated murder in various Egyptian provinces and were executed at the Tanta prison in the Nile Delta, 80 kilometres north of Cairo. Four other convicted murderers have been hanged in recent days, the news agency added. Egyptian authorities have also executed 15 Islamic militants since June for politically-motivated attacks.

### Israeli court rejects Manning appeal

TEL AVIV (AP) — The supreme court ruled Monday that Israel should extradite an American woman wanted in connection with a California murder, although she had already stood trial in the case. Rochelle Manning, 43, and her husband, Robert, are suspected of involvement in sending a booby-trapped appliance to a computer firm in Manhattan Beach in 1980. It killed a secretary, Patricia Wilkerson. All that remained now was for Justice Minister David Levi to sign Mrs. Manning's extradition order within 60 days, said justice ministry spokeswoman Etie' eshed. Robert Manning, 41, was extradited last month after the supreme court rejected the couple's appeal that their religious Jewish needs would not be met in American prisons. Mrs. Manning launched an additional appeal based on double jeopardy. Unlike Robert, she had been tried for the murder in the U.S., but the jury was unable to deliver a verdict and a mistrial was declared.

### 2 Pakistanis killed in Kuwait blast

KUWAIT (R) — Two Pakistani soldiers have been killed in Kuwait by an explosion while trying to clear explosives left over from the 1991 Gulf war, a Pakistani diplomat said Monday. "It was a very unfortunate accident. One of them died instantly and the other expired later in hospital," Pakistan's Ambassador Karamatullah Khan Ghorri told Reuters. The bodies of the two soldiers, Nazir Ahmad, 30, and Mohammad Sadiq, 38, were flown to Pakistan after Wednesday's explosion. Three other Pakistanis were hurt in the blast, one seriously.

### U.S. lawmaker plans Demjanjuk's return

TEL AVIV — A U.S. congressman said Monday he planned to escort John Demjanjuk home from Israel this week after the former American autoworker's acquittal as a Nazi guard. James Traficant, a Democrat from Mr. Demjanjuk's home state of Ohio, said he expected Israel's supreme court to reject demands by Holocaust survivors, Nazi hunters and others that Mr. Demjanjuk stand trial for other alleged war crimes. The court will rule Wednesday. "I am convinced that he will be released. He was extradited here as 'Ivan.' It's evident he is not 'Ivan,'" Mr. Traficant told Reuters.


### Iranian prosecutor commits suicide

TEHRAN (R) — An Iranian provincial prosecutor has killed himself, leaving behind a letter saying he had got into trouble for reporting official wrongdoings, Salam newspaper said on Monday. Mohsen Khodaverdi, who had served for more than 10 years as prosecutor in Rasht, a provincial capital near the Caspian coast, shot himself with a pistol, it said. "It has been learned that Mr. Khodaverdi has left behind a detailed letter in which he pointed to reports he had made about wrongdoings attributed to judicial and other officials and said those reports caused some problems for him," Salam said. The paper urged judicial authorities to make the letter public.



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## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Omniscience
18:35	Maguy
19:00	News in French
19:15	Varities
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	People Next Door
21:00	Faces and Places
21:30	A Kind of Magic
22:00	News in English
22:20	Angels with Dirty Faces
PRAYER TIMES	
04:32	Fajr
05:56	(Sunrise) Doha
12:48	Dhuhr
16:19	'Asr
19:24	Maghrib
20:28	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedieh, Tel. 810700	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. 628543.	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.	
Amman International Church Tel. 625226.	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be relatively hot and winds will be northerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Amman	Min/Max. temp. 20 / 35
Aqaba	27 / 40

Deserts	18 / 38
Jordan Valley	23 / 39
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 35, Aqaba 40. Humidity readings: Amman 21 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
Dr. Nidal Al Mahairi	751672
Dr. Hanna Mansour	776197
Dr. Mohammad Al Azeh	752971
Dr. Jum'a Abu Dhiab	748948
Fire brigade	661912
Fendous pharmacy	78336
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Natroukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Shuqani pharmacy	644945
Neitroukh pharmacy	637660
Najib pharmacy	847632
REPAIRS	
Dr. Mohammad Al Helu	279773
Akqaba pharmacy	(—)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Akram Al Haddad	985350

Khalifeh pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Police Complaints	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	63021
Hotel Complaints	605800
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power	
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Husseini Medical Centre	813813/322
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	644281/6
Al-Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhe, J. Amman	636140
ZARQA:	
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	664171/4
Shumkani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Rafiah, Al-Muhajirin	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/26
Army, Marka	891611/15
Quocin Alia Hospital	666100
Al-Husseini	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al-Husseini Modern Hospital	(09)989090
IBRD:	
Princess Basma Hospital	10217555
Greek Catholic Hospital	102172275
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital	102174100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

13:30	Abu Dhabi (GF)	17:45	Dubai (AZ)
14:00	Riyadh (SU)	18:00	Bucharest (RO)
16:45	Rome (AZ)		
19:20	Paris, Beirut (AF)		
20:50	Beirut (ME)		
23:25	Bucharest (RO)		

### MARKET PRICES

*Upper/lower price in fils per kg.*

Apple	280/200
Apricots	440/340
Banana	600/430
Banana (Wakamamar)	680/1 680
Banana (Wakamamar)	620/1 620
Beans	320/1 340
Cabbage	100/1 50
Carrot	280/220
Chauliflower	180/1 100
Cherry (red)	750/600
Cucumbers (large)	150/1 50
Cucumbers (small)	170/1 120
Eggplant	170/1 50
Garlic	300/200
Grape	300/200
Lemon	380/1 480
Marrow (large)	150/1 100
Mastrow (small)	250/1 200
Mint	50
Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)	650/550
Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)	680/70
Okra	340/200
Onion (dry)	600/500
Orange	680/70
Peach	340/200
Pepper (hot)	600/500
Pepper (sweet)	360/300
Potato	300/1 220
Tomato	230/1 50
Swiss chard	130/1 60
Watermelon	240/150

### DEPARTURES

#### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:30	Aqaba (RJ)
09:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:00	Vienna (RJ)
12:45	Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
12:55	Paris, Brussels (RJ)
13:20	Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
13:25	Geneva, Frankfurt (RJ)
13:45	Cairo (RJ)
14:00	Londra (RJ)
21:30	Londra (RJ)
21:45	Jeddah (RJ)
22:15	Bahrain, Dubai (RJ)
22:25	Larnaca (RJ)
22:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:45	Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

#### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:15	Larnaca, Vienna (OS)
14:15	Cairo (MS)
14:30	Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
15:30	Riyadh (SU)





Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Monday meets with renowned Egyptian writer and journalist Mohammad Heikal (Petra photo)

## Heikal says Arabs should close ranks

AMMAN (Petra) — Egyptian writer and journalist Mohammad Heikal Monday voiced his appreciation of His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to bring about solidarity among Arab countries and close Arab ranks.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, following a meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, Mr. Heikal said all Arab countries ought to support Jordan in its quest to reestablish Arab solidarity and enhance the march of democracy.

Heikal said Jordan will play a leading role in the region and therefore it ought to be helped and supported in its endeavours by other Arab countries.

## Majali orders contact with Arab League through proper channel

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Monday issued a circular to government departments instructing them to refrain from making contacts with the Arab League General Secretariat or other Arab League agencies directly.

All contacts and correspondence with the league, said the circular, should be conducted through the Foreign Ministry in Amman.

In the circular, the prime minister said that it was noticed that several ministries and other official government departments have been making direct contact with the Arab League in Cairo without notifying the Foreign Ministry. Such practice could complicate matters for the government and embarrass the Foreign Ministry, said the circular.

The Foreign Ministry is the sole government department authorised to address the Arab League and all other Arab and foreign organisations and governments, it noted.

Dr. Majali said different government departments can channel all their correspondence with the Arab League through the Foreign Ministry.

## JPA was not consulted on code of honour — statement

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Press Association (JPA) Monday issued a statement declaring that the JPA was not a party to or even consulted on the proposed press code of honour, as outlined last Friday by Information Minister Ma'an Abu Nowar.

According to the statement, the JPA reaffirms its commitment to the JPA Law which it said grants it independence and freedom to organise matters related to the journalism profession and journalists' affairs.

The JPA Council reaffirms its total commitment to the JPA Law and does not accept tutelage or interference in its affairs by any party—official or otherwise, said the statement issued following a regular session of the JPA Council chaired by its president, Suleiman Al Qudah.

The council members studied the projected press code of hon-



Ma'an Abu Nowar

our and decided to issue Monday's statement.



Suleiman Al Qudah

The council, the statement added, would like to reiterate its commitment to the Jordanian Constitution and to upholding the national interests and respect for and abidance by the country's existing laws.

JPA members are totally committed to the oath they took when they were sworn in, vowing to remain faithful to the homeland and the King, carry out their duties and practice journalism with loyalty, safeguard the profession and respect laws related to it, added the statement.

The minister of information had said that he presented the proposal of enacting a press code of honour to the JPA president, adding that such a charter would be endorsed only after consultations with the journalists, writers and intellectuals.

The JPA statement stressed the association's commitment to the Arab Press Charter of 1972, endorsed by the Third Conference of the Arab Journalists Union.

It said the conference had reaffirmed two important points: freedom and responsibility in the journalists work.

## Situation deteriorates in occupied territories — report

AMMAN (Petra) — The general situation in the Israeli-occupied Arab lands has deteriorated to a serious level over the past months mainly because of Israel's imposition of a siege on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, according to a monthly report released Monday by the Foreign Ministry's Occupied Territories Affairs Department.

The report quoted figures given by Betsalem, an Israeli human rights group, which noted that the Israeli forces were now killing more young Palestinian boys than they had over the past 25 years of occupation.

The group recorded 187 Palestinian children killed by Israeli forces since the start of the Intifada in 1987, including 38 in the first six months of 1993, the report added.

It quoted secret documents whose contents were allegedly leaked to foreign circles and were said to reveal the presence of a plan by the Israeli municipality of Jerusalem to completely obliterate the Arab religious and cultural characters of the holy city to facilitate its Judaisation process.



A Palestinian boy is evacuated last April, seconds after being shot in the leg by an Israeli soldier who within half an hour wounded five boys with his sniper fire in the Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood of Gaza City (AFP photo)

Haaretz an Israeli daily said several existing Arab and Islamic sites would be removed including ancient walls and sites adjacent to the Al Haram Al Sharif, (the Dome of the Rock), the report noted.

In the past month, the foreign ministry report said, Israeli authorities continued their cam-

paigns against Christian and Islamic holy places, desecrating holy sites and closing several mosques in Jerusalem, Nablus, Ramallah and Al Birah.

Israel continued the confiscation of Arab-owned lands and so far has seized 3,080,725 dunums of land in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip the report pointed out.

It said the lands are being seized for the construction of more Jewish settlements, adding that to date, 186 settlements have been erected on the West Bank and 20 in the Gaza Strip.

Furthermore, the Israeli courts last month passed verdicts on 145 Palestinian citizens who are imprisoned for periods ranging from several months to several years, the report said.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Kaabneh reviews military drills

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lieutenant-General Abdul Hafez Mirai Al Kaabneh Monday watched military drills by one of the formations of the 12th Royal Mechanised Division. Lt Gen. Kaabneh was briefed on the division's training programmes. The drill included target shooting with live ammunition by the division's various machinery, with air support by fighter planes and helicopters.

#### Japanese official ends visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the first Middle East division at the Japanese foreign ministry Akio Tanaka Monday wound up a three-day visit to Jordan. During his stay in Amman, Mr. Tanaka held talks with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sata'an Al Hassan and several officials on the Middle East peace process and Japan's role in pushing the process forward. Mr. Tanaka also discussed with officials here Jordanian-Japanese relations and means to enhance them.

#### Ministry studies nutrition programme

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education Monday decided to conduct an evaluation study of the ministry's nutrition programme implemented at government-run schools. Director of the ministry's Educational Development and Research Department Wajih Al Faraj said the department is currently carrying such a study to enable the ministry to decide properly on the issue. The research team conducting the study, said Mr. Faraj,

designed four questionnaires. One was directed at principals of schools benefitting from the nutrition programme, another at the teacher responsible for carrying out the programme in the same school, the third at the directors of the programme in various areas of Jordan and the fourth at parents of students benefitting from the programmes.

#### Tankers to fill up on potable water

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas Monday issued instructions to owners of water tankers requesting them to only fill their vehicles with chlorinated, potable water and only from licensed water wells. He also ordered them to paint the tankers green and re-paint them when needed. The minister's instructions call on truck owners to write "potable water" clearly on both sides of the tanker. They also demand that drivers of tankers carry with them papers certifying that they are free of communicable diseases and that their tankers are carrying potable water. The truckers are also required to take receipts from the owners of private wells or directors of water sources whenever they fill their tanks.

#### Returnee compensation panel meets

AMMAN (Petra) — A committee following up the issue of compensating Jordanian expatriates who returned from Kuwait during the Gulf crisis met Monday under the chairmanship of Minister of Labour Khaled Al Ghazawi, and discussed arrangements and measures taken by its information and financial sub-committees.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Eshbella Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre. The paintings depict Jordanian-Palestinian heritage, Jordanian antiquities, Arab Jerusalem, rural life and natural scenery.
- Exhibition of a new collection of art works by Princess Wijdan Ali at The Gallery, Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental.
- Exhibition of paintings by 25 Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition by Iraqi artists Mohammad Hussain Judi and Shawkat Al Alousi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of paintings by a group of young Jordanian artists at

the Royal Cultural Centre.

### LECTURE

- Lecture entitled "The Levantine Mosaic and the Emergence of Modern Behaviours" by Dr. Donald O. Henry of the University of Tulsa at 7 p.m. at the American Centre of Oriental Research (ACOR)

### JERUSALEM FESTIVAL

- Exhibition of paintings, posters, Palestinian costumes, books and other items on the Holy City of Jerusalem at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- Exhibition of books on various subjects at Al Hashimieh Plaza, downtown Amman.
- Seminar, in Arabic, entitled "The Novel — Experience and Dialogue" at 6.30 p.m. at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

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## Jordan Times

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## Justice and the right to know

IN 1945, Kent Cooper coined an expression that later became the subject of heated debate in the U.S.: "The public has the right to know."

This article of faith in the free flow of information is no longer a subject of controversy, especially after it became codified in international human rights conventions such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Yet this right to know remains a controversy in this part of the world in spite of the fact Jordan and other Middle Eastern states have all ratified the ICCPR.

Take for example, "the news about" the reported plot to assassinate His Majesty the King. Many Jordanians had first heard it through no other than Israeli radio and television and some foreign newscasts. Would it not have been infinitely more useful and right if they heard the news about the plot directly from Jordanian sources?

True, there may have been a legal impediment to releasing the news while an investigation was being conducted, especially if any revelations were going to hinder the course of justice or interfere with it. But such constraint cannot possibly explain the lid of secrecy that has been imposed so far on the arrest of 30 Jordanians as far back as April and May as conspirators in the alleged plot.

Leaving the news to be revealed by international news agencies, only to be used as grist for the rumour mills, serves no interest except to put Jordan and Jordanians in a difficult position.

All countries have various degrees of state security problems and Jordan is no exception. This is not to diminish the seriousness of the charges levelled against the 10 Jordanians who will stand trial later on this month, two of them in absentia. On the contrary, all plotters against the sovereign deserve the stiffest punishment. Yet even though the case against the accused is shocking to all of us who believed that with the introduction of democracy domestic peace is nearly secured, we must at all times be prepared to handle such situations, calmly and collectively.

The love, respect and loyalty that His Majesty commands among his people are too firm, too strong to be shaken by any person, or group of people. Plots against him and the state can therefore only strengthen this people's resolve to back their leader and fight for the ideals and achievements adopted and made under his leadership.

But as the era of martial law is over and the Kingdom is in the midst of a democratisation process unprecedented in the Arab World, there is cause to believe that due process of the law will be observed during the investigation of the case against the alleged plotters as well as during their trial. Democracy may have not been served well by concealing news about the early arrests of the suspected individuals and keeping many of them incommunicado without the benefit of early legal counsel or visitation from their families. It is not too late, however, to prove that the rule of law is the solid basis of our democracy. In fact, this is the right time to both do justice and protect our democratic march in one go.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE FIRST stage of constitutional preparations for holding the coming parliamentary elections has now ended, and steps are taken towards ending the second and third stages, culminating with the election, said Al-Dustour daily Monday. Updating the voter lists and announcing the candidates, to be followed by the election campaigns, are the next stages in the process preceding the Nov. 8 elections, said the daily. The paper expressed satisfaction that nearly 1.5 million people have now registered to vote, something, the paper said, that reflects the Jordanian people's realisation of importance of these elections as part of the ongoing democratisation process in the Kingdom. The registration of the great number of people to vote also reflects the Jordanian people's confidence in the election system being fair and free and allowing them to put the right persons in Parliament, continued the daily. Keenness on the part of the electorate to register and participate in the elections is by itself a clear manifestation of the people's determination to pursue all efforts to enhance democracy in Jordan, it added. The paper expressed hope that the coming elections will witness a great turnout of voters not only exercising their right of choosing their representatives for the coming four years but also keen on ensuring a fair and free voting system for the years to come.

A COLUMNIST in Al-Rai Arabic daily lauded the efforts of the Ministry of Education for directing young people's attention towards vocational training which can ensure for them a decent living. Tareq Masarweh said that while these efforts are appreciated, it is incumbent upon the Labour Ministry to pave the ground for the trained men and women to earn a decent living by controlling the trades and workshops around the country through issuing licences only to those actually trained to operate as mechanics, carpenters, electricians, plumbers, etc. He said that the country abounds with many unskilled tradesmen who have obtained licences to open workshops and garages, but offer very bad service to the public since they have missed proper vocational training. The writer suggested that the government lease plots of land to the college graduates, giving them loans to enable them to grow crops and green the country. The writer said that the Jordanian workforce should not only be directed towards trades, but the government should also help the youth earn their living by opening the door and providing the facilities to ensure the realisation of an objective.

## The View from Fourth Circle

# Signs of hope amidst the humiliation and the scepticism

By Rami G. Khouri

THE flurry of developments in Arab-Israeli relations in the last month may be seen in the future as an important psychological milestone on the path to a negotiated peace settlement, even though current popular perception may see things in a more pessimistic light. Four particular events lead me to this conclusion: the recent Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the formation of a PLO-mandated coordinating committee to guide the Palestinian negotiators, the American government's apparent frustration with the slow pace of the peace talks and the acceptance by the 400-plus Palestinian expellees in South Lebanon to return home in stages. All four factors are signs of past wars fading away, and of new dynamics that will define the path of Arab-Israeli relations in the future.

The Israeli invasion of Lebanon, like all previous Israeli military actions in Lebanon, is already being seen as a failure, in that it cannot generate peace along the Israeli-Lebanese border. The Israelis have repeatedly invaded and occupied southern Lebanon with the declared aim of stopping guerrilla raids and rocket attacks, but the raids and the attacks have never stopped. The only thing that Israel has achieved with its non-stop militarism is to give rise to a new foe in Lebanon in the form of the Islamist Hizbollah group, which now joins the Palestinians and the leftist Lebanese nationalists in struggling for Arab rights in that area. Intelligent Israelis remember that the aim of the Peace in Galilee Operation in 1982 was to pacify the Lebanese-Israeli frontier and they must be questioning themselves as to why — more than a decade later — they have to repeat the same tactics, but this time against new Arab foes.

It is clear that militarism by Arabs or Israelis — however furious, passionate, destructive or repetitive it may be — is not going to resolve the essential political problem between Arabs and Israelis. This will require a political negotiation and the ongoing peace talks will now be strengthened by the formation of the PLO-mandated Palestinian coordinating committee that includes Tunis-based PLO officials and Palestinians from the occupied territories.

The most important historical development here is the ease with which Israel has accommodated itself to negotiating with what is clearly a PLO team — despite Israel's repeated assertions that it would never negotiate with the PLO. Israeli officials rationalise this important change in many different ways and it is their right to engage in the politics of make-believe and mythology. The important substantive point is that the Israeli government and the PLO are now effectively negotiating a peace agreement and this should be welcomed by all.

We on the Arab side are doing things today that we always said we

would never do, such as working out transitional self-governing (autonomy) arrangements and pondering jurisdictional configurations for Jerusalem that satisfy Arab and Israeli demands. The fact that Arabs and Israelis alike are accepting compromise deals is a positive development, rather than a sign of weakness.

An important aspect of the new Palestinian committee is the symbolism of how Palestinians are slowly coming to terms with the hard choices that must be made if the peace talks are to succeed. It is more and more clear that the Palestinians and the other Arab parties will not get everything they demand in one stroke of the peace pen. The negotiating process will take a long time and gains will be made in small, incremental steps, with each step requiring a compromise on previously absolutist positions.

Fact is that, both Israelis and Palestinians will have to make substantial compromise for peace and stability, but for the moment the pressure is almost totally on the Palestinians. This is why there is so much scepticism in the Arab camp. It is natural to witness the sorts of stresses and tensions within the Palestinian negotiating team that we are now witnessing. It is also a sign of great maturity that these stresses are being resolved through dialogue and internal compromise.

The Israelis will soon have to go through the same process, and it is obvious to most Israeli political figures that they run the risk of severe strains within the Israeli society when they have to make the tough choices that lie ahead. The most feared internal Israeli development is the advent of domestic violence by rightwing groups, especially those whose political ideology is closely tied to the continuation of Jewish settlements and Zionist colonialisation in Palestine. The Israelis will probably have to go through a period of internal violence similar to the one the Palestinians experienced in the late 1970s and early 1980s, when anti-compromise Palestinians and their Arab backers waged a campaign of violence against the Arafat and Fateh-led forces that chose the path of compromise and negotiations.

The climbdown by the 400 Palestinian expellees in southern Lebanon is also an important political signal, even though it is personally humiliating to them and their supporters in Hamas and other Arab circles. The agreement to return home in stages (which they rejected months ago) is a sign that rigid, absolutist negotiating positions usually do not pay off. The lessons learned on the slopes of southern Lebanon should have a positive impact on the negotiations in the future, by prompting both sides to be more realistic, patient and conciliatory. Israel should recognise that its militarism will not

bring it the goals it desires and the Palestinians should learn that rejectionism will not pave the way for achieving Palestinian national objectives and rights.

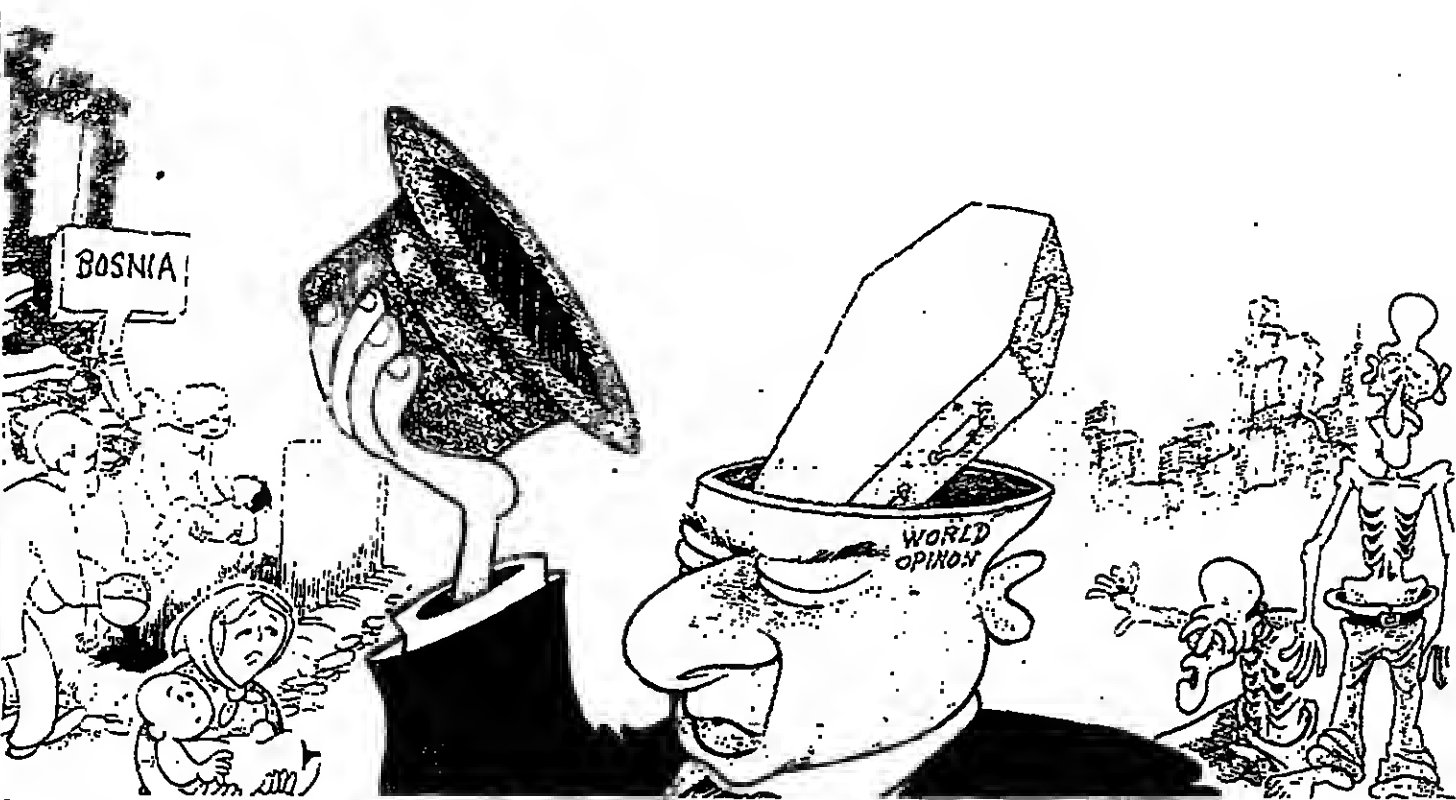
The American posture is also interesting in view of the above developments. The United States government has signalled its impatience with the peace talks, saying that progress must be made this year or it will leave the Arabs and the Israelis to work things out for themselves. This is offered as something of a threat by Washington, but from our perspective perhaps we should see it as a sign of hope because, in the end, peace and stability will have to be sign of hope because, in the end, peace and stability will have to be worked out directly by the Arabs and the Israelis.

The intervention of the United States in the Arab-Israeli conflict has been a disaster for the Arabs, given Israel's heavy reliance on American political and military support to maintain the unjust status quo. A reduced American role in the area and more pressure on the Arabs and Israelis to work things out on their own are probably the desirable, in view of Washington's recent pro-Israeli posture in the region. The advent of direct PLO-Israeli talks suggests that the traditional stumbling blocs to peace are slowly being eroded, while the increasingly obvious futility of militarism and rejectionism by both sides are good signs of hope for progress in the peace talks. Critical in this vision of the future is the element of time; for the breakthroughs in the negotiations will not happen suddenly. The original timeframe as the Madrid peace conference envisaged agreement on an interim self-governing Palestinian authority within about a year, and this is still a long way off. We would be doing well if we agreed on this first transitional stage by the end of 1994, entered into serious talks for the final status peace arrangements in 1996-1997 and started to implement the final status accords by the end of this decade.

The psychological baggage that burdens both sides in the peace talks is heavy and substantial. It cannot be shed in a matter of months. The accumulated fears, anger and mistrust that have been generated by nearly a century of Arab-Zionist warfare in Palestine will need many years to be overcome, and the failed old ways of hardline military and political action by both sides can only be discarded through a slow, persistent process of psychological detente leading to national coexistence and reconciliation. The important signs we have witnessed in the last month suggest that this process is well underway. Its historic importance should not be overlooked.

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M. KAHIL



## Swiss Bosnian refugees help prepare war crimes trial

By Mitya New  
Reuters

BERNE — Bosnian Muslims are giving Swiss authorities chilling accounts of atrocities in their home country, hoping they will help bring the guilty before an international war crimes tribunal. Switzerland, together with other countries to have accepted refugees from war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina, has responded to a United Nations request to gather information from refugees for use in a planned trial of war criminals involved in the conflict.

The court, to be based in The Hague, will try cases involving grave breaches of the Geneva conventions, violations of the 1948 convention against genocide, and other serious crimes against humanity and the laws of war.

These include mass killings, murder, rape, torture, pillage, the wanton destruction of property and "ethnic cleansing" — the forced removal of people from their homes because of their religious or ethnic roots.

The refugees tell of children shot before their parents' eyes, camp internees forced to torture fellow detainees and people, who for years had been friendly neighbours, viciously turning on each other.

"A lot of the accounts we have heard from the refugees so far shows that some people in the war relish torture for torture's sake rather than just killing people," a Swiss investigating magistrate told Reuters.

The magistrate, one of 30 who volunteered to question the group of 50 Bosnian refugees willing to provide detailed information, asked not to be named to protect those he had interviewed from reprisals.

They were given 90 seconds to eat it and the last one to finish would be shot dead.

"Not only did they have about the one-and-a-half minutes to eat, but they had to negotiate a corridor, where the floor had been smeared with oil, to get to the room with the food, the magistrate added, quoting from an account by one refugee who succeeded in fleeing.

"Anyone who slipped and fell was kicked and rifle-butted by the guards standing on both sides of the corridor."

He would not say where the atrocities took place, nor reveal any information about the Bosnian who detailed them, saying only that the account had been independently corroborated by other refugees he and other magistrates had questioned.

"Eventually, in solidarity with each other, the group made sure they all finished their meals at precisely the same time to ensure no-one was shot," he added.

Another refugee's ordeal started when his village was attacked with grenade-launchers. The villagers fled burning houses and hid on an island in a nearby river for three days.

"Finally, with nowhere to go and little food or water, the villa-

gers surrendered to Serb forces. They were divided by sex, stripped of valuables and then interned in various camps.

In the camp the refugee was forced to share a room of around 40 square metres with 300 other Muslims.

The only way of getting any sleep was to have one-third of the people lie down, one-third kneel and one-third stand and to rotate this formation in shifts throughout the night.

Those nearest the door were dragged away for questioning and often returned severely beaten. Some subsequently died of their injuries.

The refugee was switched through a number of camps, in one of which he was briefly reunited with his wife, who had been raped in her camp.

After six months of internment the Muslim was put on a convoy of buses with a group of old and young men and driven under guard into the mountains.

"The buses halted and the old men were set free, but the young were shot dead or thrown over cliffs," the magistrate said.

The refugee managed to escape by hiding among the old men. He then succeeded in escaping through the mountains across the

border of Bosnia-Herzegovina and was later given temporary asylum in Switzerland.

The accounts from the refugees, which will be sent to the United Nations in September, will not serve as testimony but as a pool of information for prosecutors to use.

The trial, which will be the first international tribunal of its kind since the allied powers set up courts in Nuremberg and Tokyo after World War II to try leading Axis war criminals, faces great difficulties.

Unlike at Nuremberg and Tokyo, the victors will not be trying the vanquished. The former republics of Yugoslavia will not have surrendered unconditionally to foreign powers determined to bring war criminals before a court.

"Anyone in former Yugoslavia accused of war crimes could be pretty sure they would not be extradited by their governments to face the tribunal," said one Geneva-based diplomat. "They would just have to make sure they never left their home countries."

At Nuremberg, much evidence was culled from captured German military files, but no such documents are likely to be available from former Yugoslavia.

The bulk of suspected war criminals are assumed to be Serbs, although there have also been reports of atrocities by Croats and Muslims.

A list of potential defendants published last December by the United States included Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Bosnian Serb military Commander General Ratko Mladic.

Yugoslavia, now comprising Serbia and Montenegro, has told the United Nations it considers the tribunal would be unfair since it would focus solely on alleged war crimes committed in the Bosnian conflict and not worldwide.

## Rabin's quiet concessions anger Israeli right

By Jack Redden  
Reuters

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is fuelling the worst fears of rightwing Israelis who always suspected Middle East peace talks would lead to a slippery slope of concessions.

The naming of Palestinian negotiators to offices in the Palestine Liberation Organisation last week — dismissed by the government as unimportant — was the latest step in a steady erosion of once sacrosanct Israeli positions.

The moves towards direct talks with the PLO have been paralleled by comments alerting Israelis to expect a major, or even complete, withdrawal from the Golan Heights to secure peace with Syria.

Whether he has a long-held plan or a piecemeal, pragmatic realisation of what is necessary to reach Middle East peace, Mr. Rabin has been shifting positions ever since taking office more than a year ago.

"There was a wall," former Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir complained after Mr. Rabin allowed the breaching of the barrier erected to prevent direct talks with the "murderous" PLO.

"The Rabin government has done everything to demolish that wall," said Mr. Shamir, whose rightwing Likud Party was ousted by Mr. Rabin's Labour Party in June 1992.

But Mr. Shamir, who entered peace talks in October 1991 under U.S. pressure, said concessions on the PLO were "dwarfed" by those on the Golan Heights, captured in 1967 and all but formally annexed by an earlier Likud government in 1981.

Mr. Shamir, who vowed never to trade one inch of land for peace with Arabs, said Mr. Rabin was planning a total withdrawal from the Golan in return for full normalisation of relations with Syria.

The Rabin government plays down talk of compromise. But an aide to Mr. Rabin said when he took office that a key task was to shift public opinion from the old positions.

Under Mr. Shamir, any contact by an Israeli with the PLO was illegal. A peace campaigner went to prison for carrying his appeal to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Shamir began peace talks only after demanding Palestinian negotiators come from the occupied West Bank or Gaza Strip and not show links to the PLO.

That stand was methodically ban on private contacts with the PLO was abolished in January and 10 days later a member of parliament from Mr. Rabin's party visited Mr. Arafat at his Tunis headquarters.

Last month Environment Minister Yossi Sarid met a PLO official in Cairo. The story was leaked and Mr. Rabin acknowledged he knew about the "unofficial" meeting in advance.

On Friday, Culture Minister Shulamit Aloni confirmed to Reuters she also had met a PLO official.

Now, at the session of peace talks convening in Washington on August 30, Israeli negotiators will be facing members of a PLO committee, something unthinkable in the decades since the organisation was formed to fight Israel in 1964.

About the only remaining taboo is negotiating with a PLO member from outside the occupied territories, which would raise the question of the millions of Palestinians who still seek the right to return to some part of the original Palestine.

With the Syrians, the position on the chief subject — the Golan Heights where the countries fought two wars — has also shifted.

"Mr. Rabin has preserved the image that won him election, offsetting any public concern over compromises with an iron-fisted approach to security. His popularity is high following Israel's fierce bombardment of Lebanon last month. If he can make Israelis feel safe while ending 45 years of war through compromise, he knows his position will be secure."

Yossi Ben-Aharon, Mr. Shamir's uncompromising negotiator with Syria, would not contemplate any withdrawal from the plateau that dominates adjoining Syrian and Israeli land.

Mr. Rabin, when seeking election, proposed minor border changes to secure peace. Since then the area has grown continually, to the point where Police Minister Moshe Shabai said last week Israelis were ready to return all the land.

That spurs fears of rightwing Israelis that peace talks will end in the return of most land captured in the 1967 Middle East war, land they want for both ideological and strategic reasons.

But so far they have failed to ignite popular alarm. Opposition is concentrated in the Jewish settlers of the occupied territories.

Instead, Mr. Rabin has preserved the image that won him election, offsetting any public concern over compromises with an iron-fisted approach to security. His popularity is high following Israel's fierce bombardment of Lebanon last month.

If Mr. Rabin can make Israelis feel safe while ending 45 years of war through compromise, he knows his position will be secure and their rightwing opposites that feared negotiations will be the losers.



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# Features

## Nativism proposal provokes outcry

By Sally Streff Bazbee  
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — California Gov. Pete Wilson's call to stop giving illegal aliens welfare, health care and education — and to stop granting citizenship to their American-born children — was attacked as coldhearted and un-American.

"What he wants to do is basically create a tremendous underclass of second-class citizens," said Roberto Martinez, who monitors immigrant abuse for the American Friends Service Committee. "And that will just mean more hostility, and possibly violence."

The chorus of politicians calling for an immigration crackdown has swelled recently since the bombing of the World Trade Centre, allegedly by Muslim extremists, and the arrival of boatloads of Chinese refugees on U.S. shores.

Mr. Wilson, who had never been outspoken about immigration, recently embarked on his own crusade in a series of stops across the state and in an open letter to President Clinton.

The Republican governor said citizens of other countries are robbing the state of \$2.3 billion in services each year.

"We are compelled to cut aid to the needy, blind, disabled and elderly in California in order to comply with federal mandates to provide services to illegal immigrants," Mr. Wilson said Tuesday near San Clemente, where a fence is being built to prevent illegal immigrants from running across the freeway to evade the border patrol.

States that offer generous benefits, such as California, Florida and Illinois, have become magnets for illegal aliens, the governor said. Cutting off benefits is the only way to stop the immigrants from coming, he said.

Mr. Wilson faces a tough reelection campaign next year, in part because of the state's economic woes. He recently signed a budget that cut most state services by about 11 per cent and reduced welfare and health-care services.

"What can I say? He's just trying to score some votes on the backs of immigrants," said Raymond Uzeta, San Diego director of the Chicano Federation.

Immigration officials estimate

## Scientists fleshing out bones of Spain's prehistoric past

By John Pollack  
The Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO DE SILOS, Spain — With the zeal of a crusader, Jorge Maná Rivero began digging months ago in a cave in north central Spain, intent on finding evidence of his ancestors' and yours.

The amateur paleontologist may have hit pay dirt in May in the cave near this medieval town when he unearthed a human skull that he says exhibits characteristics of both prehistoric and modern man.

The skull, whose significance has yet to be determined by experts, is the latest in a recent series of discoveries of prehistoric remains in Spain.

The findings have kindled speculation that much more than previously thought remains of the dinosaurs and primitive humans who once roamed the Iberian Peninsula.

Coincidentally, Spain's maturing scientific community is finally able to excavate sites that long lay fallow for lack of money or adequate training.

"Spain is rich in deposits, and a lot remains to be uncovered. It hasn't been excavated as intensively as other countries," said Jose Luis Arsuaga, a professor of paleontology at Madrid's Complutense University, who last year found three 300,000-year-old human skulls near Burgos in north central Spain.

Mr. Arsuaga and his colleagues published a study of the skulls in the April 8 issue of *Nature*, showing both Spain's potential as a source of prehistoric remains and Spanish scientific talent.

Mr. Rivero, who believes that early man evolved on the Iberian Peninsula, not in Africa, has sent a bone sample from the skull he found to the Miguel Crusafont Institute near Barcelona for testing.

"I'm not searching for treasure, I'm looking for the origin of man," he said.

Just this year, scientists also dug up the bones of a 200,000-year-old mammoth, footprints of various mammals thought to date back 20 million years and puzzling bones from an unidentified species of dinosaur.

"I've been at this for 40 years, and I've never seen anything like it," said Eudald Carbonell, a professor of prehistory at Tarragona's Rovira i Virgili University, referring to the rash of discoveries. Mr. Carbonell worked with Mr. Arsuaga excavating the

skulls and other bones.

An enterprising tour operator in the area is offering a package weekend including an hour in Roman baths, all the Rioja wine you can drink and a three-hour search for bones and fossils.

Enrique de Alvaro, an archaeologist in the Culture Ministry, said Spanish scientists long suffered for lack of top-flight, post-graduate education and money to support their research and were 20 years behind the United States and France.

Only 10 years ago, Spanish paleontologists were embarrassed when a bone fragment hailed as a piece of prehistoric human skull turned out to be from an ancient ass.

But thanks to growing sophistication and economic well-being, Spain has been able to increase funding for scientific research about 15 per cent a year and has sent a generation of students abroad for post-graduate study.

Recent discoveries are the product of such investments, Mr. De Alvaro said.

"The emphasis now is on excavating fewer sites but doing them well," he said.

International cooperation has played an important role in this development, since scientists from around Europe and the United States collaborate with Spaniards on various projects.

It is often a fruitful exchange. Foreign researchers get the chance to study interesting sites, while Spanish investigators can share their colleagues' expertise and — sometimes more important — the funding they bring.

"It seems to be a happy marriage," said William Farrand, a geologist at the University of Michigan and director of the University's Exhibit Museum.

"The central part of Spain has not been given a lot of attention," said Mr. Farrand, who is familiar with the Burgos site. "There's good reason to think that the Iberian Peninsula, including Portugal, should have some interesting prehistoric sites."

Investigators cite several reasons for Spain's wealth of remains. The climate has been temperate in the Iberian Peninsula for millions of years; the region was hospitable to life when ice covered much of the rest of Europe.

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## Supersonic yen heads for the one cent barrier

LONDON (R) — The irrepressible yen continued its surge Monday to come within spitting distance of the magical one-yen to one-cent barrier.

"Adjectives like ballistic and supersonic don't do the yen justice," said David Brown, chief economist at Tokai Bank. "We could see it break 100 (per dollar) before the week is out."

The Bank of Japan again intervened heavily to buy dollars for yen but the battle was futile given the insatiable demand from corporate Japan and U.S. investment funds for the currency and the conspicuous absence of other central banks.

By 1200 GMT the yen was taking a breather at 101 per dollar after soaring to a 100.80 post-war peak early on. It finished last Friday at 102.45 and this latest dollar plunge brings its gains for the year so far to 24 yen, or 19 per cent.

It also soared to record highs on the mark at 59.05 yen and against sterling at 147.70 yen, versus 59.06 and 149.20 Friday.

The main driving force behind the yen remains Japan's huge trade surplus and the tacit acceptance by U.S. and European policy-makers of a rising yen to curb it.

"Japanese export penetration is seen as a serious problem by the U.S. and Europe and both are quite prepared to let the problem sort itself out through the price mechanism, and that means a stronger yen," said Mr. Brown.

In simple terms, he said, the trade surplus meant that in 1992 the rest of the world had to buy more than \$100 billion worth of yen to pay for Japanese goods, and it looked certain to be even more this year.

"That advantage is so powerful that anyone who stands in the way of the yen is going to get steamrollered," he said.

However, some analysts wondered if the psychologically crucial 100 level might not be a yen too far. "There's little doubt the yen is looking expensive on all fundamental measures, as any recent visitor to Japan can testify," said economist Stuart Thomson at another Japanese bank, Nikko Europe.

He thought the new Japanese government had one clear course of action — to cut interest rates. "This would make the yen less attractive while boosting domestic demand and, in turn, imports," said Mr. Thomson.

An easing could come as early as this week, he said, to coincide with a Japanese cabinet meeting on the economy on Thursday.

The dollar/mark rate spent another morning session being ignored and drifted lower to 1.7040 marks from 1.7135 on Friday.

The mark continued to make gains in the European Monetary System as investors showed their impatience with the slow pace of monetary easing from those members with weak currencies and recession-hit economies.

## Earthquakes likely to take their toll on Jordanian insurers and insurance companies

By Samir Shafiq  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Tremors which hit Jordan earlier this month have not shaken people enough to make them take out insurance policies against earthquakes. The people did not have to, anyway, since earthquake risk is normally covered without charge and is considered as a bonus item within a fire insurance package.

But things may be different from now on. Reinsurance companies are pressing their clients to establish a separate coverage for this risk at, of course, a fee.

Officials of insurance companies in Jordan say their colleagues now insist on including coverage of natural disasters by either increasing charges or taking out separate plans.

"The issue, however, has not been resolved and is still being negotiated" an insurance official told the Jordan Times this week.

This official said that reinsurers were under pressure to demand higher rates and better deals because of growing natural disasters around the world and not only because of earthquakes in our region.

He added that financial losses resulting from various hurricanes, given names like Hugo and Andrew, and from other flood and earthquake disasters in the U.S. and Japan, have weighed heavily on reinsurers to push for this type of insurance.

Another insurance official said the recent tremors in Jordan had not created a demand for "natural disasters" insurance and, based on this, the pressure by reinsurers to specify risks and raise charges would make it more difficult for local insurance companies to attract business.

Jamal Madbak, assistant general manager of the Middle East Insurance Company, told the Jordan Times this week that only big enterprises such as hotels, banks and major industries are interested in covering natural disaster risks, but again this coverage was a free annexation to a fire insurance policy.

"Ordinary citizens have little awareness of these risks and have not shown a change in their attitude as a result of the recent tremors," he explained.

Mr. Madbak emphasised that earthquakes, snowstorms and floods which have repeatedly hit our region since 1991, have alerted local and international insurers and prompted them to reexamine the risks of natural disasters in the Middle East by attempting to amend their policies.

"Reinsurers, he said, base risks of earthquakes in the Mideast on the 1929 strong Jericho earthquake which they believe will somehow recur every 80 years."

"As such, and as we approach the beginning of the twenty-first century, reinsurers will be raising rates for insurance against earthquakes," he pointed out.

Mr. Madbak said that based on the regional considerations and the eagerness of international reinsurance companies to compensate their losses from increasing natural disasters around the world, a leading world reinsurance firm is asking for 700 fils per JD1,000 for earthquake insurance and 300 fils per JD1,000 for flood insurance in the Mideast.

Noting that the rates were just an example of how high a charge reinsurance companies were seeking, Mr. Madbak emphasised that the problem was not really in how much the rates would be but in the fact that earthquakes and floods were risks that had to be separately covered and charged.

"Rates requested by reinsurers can be sharply reduced especially when taking into consideration the small Jordanian market and varied international prices weighed down by competition among tens of reinsurance firms... the most prominent of which are German, Swiss and American companies."

Mr. Madbak said the introduction of the new rates, once agreed with reinsurers, would not be so big since local insurance companies know how to deal with the local market.

He pointed out that local insurance companies collect an average of 20 per cent commission per every insurance package forwarded to the international market for reinsurance.

According to Mr. Madbak, a study by his company estimates total insurance premiums in Jordan to be JD55-JD60 million, which translates into JD10 per capita. In Switzerland, for example, insurance per capita constitutes about 30 per cent of a person's income.

The study shows that total fire insurance premiums (often including natural disasters) totals JD4 million in Jordan. However, 85 per cent of that amount, which is JD1 per capita, is paid by big businesses and large industries.

### Financial Markets

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	Rate	Change
Sterling Pound	1.0000	
Deutsche Mark	1.0000	
Swiss Franc	1.0000	
French Franc	1.0000	
Japanese Yen	100.00	
European Currency Unit	1.0000	

Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTH	6 MTH	12 MTH
U.S. Dollar	5.06	5.12	5.27	5.50
Sterling Pound	5.81	5.83	5.83	5.50
Deutsche Mark	6.24	6.37	6.25	5.87
Swiss Franc	4.75	4.54	4.50	4.12
French Franc	9.87	8.00	7.00	5.87
Japanese Yen	2.00	2.15	2.37	2.37
European Currency Unit	5.50	7.00	7.12	6.50

Precious Metals

Metal	1 STDZ	JD/100	Metal	USD Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	329.15	7.30	Silver	4.71	0.103

### Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currents

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.9940	0.9960
Sterling Pound	0.0151	0.0152
Deutsche Mark	0.4024	0.4035
Swiss Franc	0.4562	0.4585
French Franc	0.1147	0.1155
Japanese Yen	0.0044	0.0046
Dutch Guilder	0.3510	0.3523
Swedish Krona	0.0350	0.0355
Italian Lira	0.0028	0.0029
Belgian Franc	0.01405	0.01415

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8205	1.8240
Lebanese Lira	0.0391	0.0415
Saudi Riyal	0.1847	0.1865
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.9570	2.9300
Qatari Riyal	0.1550	0.1600
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2000
Omani Riyal	1.7696	1.8200
U.A.E. Dirham	0.1660	0.1600
Greek Drachma	0.2775	0.3375
Cypriot Pound	1.3250	1.3650

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3135/40	Canadian dollar	1.7050/60
	1.9200/10	Deutschmarks	1.9200/10
	1.5210/20	Dutch guilders	36.40/50
	6.0400/00	Swiss francs	1626.5/8.0
	8.1450/65	French francs	101.23/33
	7.4250/45	Italian lire	1626.5/8.0
	7.0650/85	Japanese yen	101.23/33
	1.4610/20	Swedish crowns	7.4250/45
	373.10/373.60	Norwegian crowns	7.0650/85
		Danish crowns	1.4610/20

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## Khmer Rouge step up attacks; abduct 8 Vietnamese children

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — The Khmer Rouge stepped up their attacks in central Cambodia, killing two ethnic Vietnamese and abducting eight children before attacking a train and killing two passengers over the weekend, U.N. and government officials said Monday.

The two ethnic Vietnamese were killed and the eight children abducted in a raid on the village of Chnouk Trou in the central province of Kompong Chhnang, U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said. Mr. Falt did not accuse the Khmer Rouge directly but said the attack bore "a lot of similarities" to recent Khmer Rouge attacks against Vietnamese settlers in Cambodia.

But another U.N. official, who declined to be identified, said peacekeepers in the Kompong Chhnang indicated that the radical faction's guerrillas were responsible.

A group of 30 guerrillas raided the village around 8:00 p.m. Friday, Mr. Falt said. "They came aboard several boats mounted with machine guns, they robbed the villagers, mostly ethnic Vietnamese, and shot one of them in the chest point blank," Mr. Falt said.

The injured man, who was treating a sick person when he was shot, later died, he said. Later in the evening the guerrillas abducted a group of 11 people including the eight children, and took them away by boat. One person, who was believed to be a Cambodian, was later released but another, an ethnic Vietnamese woman, was killed, he said.

"Yesterday morning (Sunday) UNTAC naval observers found the body of a woman who was part of that group of 11. She had been shot in the back of the head," he said.

The remaining eight children were reportedly being held for ransom, he said.

Also in Kompong Chhnang province, Khmer Rouge guerrillas attacked a train as it travelled from the capital to the country's second city of Battambang. The Khmer Rouge detonated mines as the train approached, derailing the engine and four carriages, and opened fire, seriously wounding six people, two of whom later died, director of the railway service Pich Kim-sreang said.

The radical faction's guerrillas also blew up two bridges in the province as well as one in Battambang last week, he said.

Sunday's train attack was the second fatal one this month, following 16 attacks on trains, trucks and bridges last month. Ten people were killed and some 30 wounded in a recent attack on the Sihanoukville to Phnom Penh train in southern Cambodia.

The chief of the U.N. peacekeeping mission here Yasushi Akashi recently wrote a strongly worded letter to Khmer Rouge nominal leader Hieu Samphan accusing the radical faction's leadership of encouraging the massacres of ethnic Vietnamese.

Thailand's intelligence chief has accused the Khmer Rouge of trying to drag Bangkok into a fight with Phnom Penh by stepping up armed clashes on the

border, the Nation newspaper said Monday.

"I suspect the Khmer Rouge want to drag Thailand into the conflict," General Charan Kullavanijaya, secretary general of the National Security Council (NSC), said in an interview, adding that he hoped to be able to work out the problem with Mr. Khieu Samphan.

It was the first time since the 1991 Paris peace accords were signed that a ranking Thai official had unequivocally blamed the Khmer Rouge, observers here said. By implicating Thailand in the attacks, the Khmer Rouge hoped Bangkok would throw its weight into convincing Phnom Penh to give it the political role it wants, an NSC source who declined to be identified told AFP.

In the Nation, Gen. Charan pointed to the recent Khmer Rouge capture of a U.N. post in Cambodia only several hundred metres from the Thai border. The United Nations later accused the Thai army of having helped the Khmer Rouge in the incident, sparking an angry denial from Bangkok.

"Why don't the Khmer Rouge limit their military operations to areas inside Cambodia? Why do they have to carry them out on the border?" the general said.

Last month the Khmer Rouge embarrassed Thailand by taking Preah Vihear, a famous Cambodian temple complex, which is on the border. Phnom Penh then accused Thailand of letting the Khmer Rouge use their territory to stage the attack, drawing another sharp denial from Bangkok.

Gen. Charan said they step-

ping up the border incidents the Khmer Rouge — who have been demanding an advisory role to Prince Sihanouk — want to prove that there can be no real peace without them.

He added that he expected the Khmer Rouge to continue their military operations.

Meanwhile, Cambodia's new draft constitution, giving Prince Norodom Sihanouk a five-year term as head of state with powers over the army and cabinet ministers, will be completed Tuesday, the head of the drafting committee said.

The constitution sets up a parliamentary system with a head of state elected for a five-year term, a prime minister and two deputy premiers, committee President Ing Kiet said.

"Prince Sihanouk is the only one capable" of filling the role of head of state, Mr. Ing Kiet said.

Initially he will be elected by a two-thirds majority of the National Assembly, which will come into being as soon as the body elected in U.N.-run polls in May ratifies the constitution and turns itself into a fully sovereign government, he said.

Renewal of his term will be by general election, Mr. Ing Kiet said.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh, currently a co-prime minister in the interim coalition government, is likely to become the sole prime minister when the constitution is ratified next month, Cambodian political sources told AFP.

In exchange, Mr. Hun Sen would move one notch down to first deputy premier and have control over the daily functions of the armed forces, the sources said.



Jordan family, friends honour slain patriarch

TEACHEY, N.C. (AP) — Michael Jordan's much-publicised life turned very private Sunday as the NBA star and his family said their good-byes to his slain father.

Family and friends who gathered for a private service at the rockfish African Methodist Episcopal Church were urged to remember the way James Raymond Jordan lived and not the way he died. Police said Mr. Jordan, 56, was shot to death by robbers when he pulled his car off a highway last month to rest.

Security at the 100-year-old church was tight. The media was kept across the street. But reporters were given a programme of the service that included a message from James Jordan's wife, Deloris, and her five children: Michael, James Ronald, Deloris, Larry and Roslyn.

"Everyone who has been touched by the warmth and strength of this special man can understand the depth of our family's sense of loss," it said.

"Dad is no longer with us. But the lessons which he taught us will remain with us forever and they will give us the strength to move forward with a renewed sense of purpose in our lives." Most of the family arrived in two limousines, with Michael following in a separate car. Also attending the service were Dean Smith, Michael's coach at the University of North Carolina, and B.J. Armstrong, a Chicago Bulls teammate.

About 100 people lined the street outside and an estimated 200 were inside. The photograph shows Deloris Jordan (centre) is helped out of the church behind the casket of her husband (AFP photo).

## Clinton learns art of vacation from Gerald Ford

VAIL, Colorado (R) — On his first real break from the rigours of the White House, Bill Clinton is learning the fine art of presidential relaxation from an old hand at it, former President Gerald Ford. During a weekend in the Rocky Mountains, Ford has treated Mr. Clinton to golf with legendary player Jack Nicklaus, an outdoor performance of the Bolshoi Ballet and a dinner-dance at which Mr. Clinton played saxophone with a didelind jazz band. The president, pooped from six months of non-stop work, was having such a good time that he decided to stay Sunday night and delay his departure for the next stop on his holiday, Fayetteville, Arkansas, until Monday. Aides said that given a choice between spending the day travelling or resting, Mr. Clinton chose the latter and assured his Arkansas friends he would be along soon. He and Mr. Ford, a Republican president from 1974 to 1977, were back playing golf Sunday afternoon. Mr. Clinton, wife Hillary and daughter Chelsea, 13, stayed at a private residence near the holiday home of Mr. Ford and his wife Betty, and they seem to have gotten along famously. After the Bolshoi performance on a cool Saturday night, the entourage attended a dinner reception in a large tent near the Ford Amphitheatre. And as soon as the jazz band began playing New Orleans tunes, the 80-year-old Ford had Mrs. Clinton on her feet and out on the dance floor. "Clinton nearly brought the house down when, introduced as a 'guest artist' by the band, he stepped on stage and played the saxophone for a couple of songs."

## Tivoli celebrates 150th birthday

COPENHAGEN (AP) — Tivoli Gardens, which celebrated its 150th birthday this weekend, may have some wrinkles but they are not caused by economic troubles. Over the weekend, Copenhagen celebrated the famed park's birthday with fireworks and performances by Denmark's own piano comedian Victor Borge and singers Art Garfunkel, Elaine Paige and Barbara Hendrick. "I've put on my nicest dress today because I am attending a birthday party," said Hanna Rasmussen, 92. The lady, dressed in a green skirt and jacket, was accompanied by her son and daughter-in-law. Tivoli has often been contrasted with EuroDisney, which has been running at a loss since opening in April 1992 outside Paris. EuroDisney has had trouble attracting French visitors and is suffering from the recession gripping many European countries. But Tivoli made a 29.3-million-kroner (\$4.6 million) profit last year. Tivoli spokesman Orson Nielsen said he could not recall the park having had a deficit since its creation in 1843. "Tivoli is good business," Mr. Nielsen said. Danes are proud of their downtown amusement park which they say has been initiated but never matched. Walt Disney visited the park in the 1950s and brought back ideas for his theme parks in the United States, according to Mr. Nielsen.

## Run on alarm briefcases seen in Seoul

SEOUL (R) — South Korean shopkeepers report a run on briefcases fitted with alarms following a presidential edict designed to stop financial transactions involving ill-gotten cash. The Yonhap News Agency said Monday. The domestic news agency quoted shopkeepers as saying their shelves had been stripped bare of such cases, generally used to transport valuables. Anecdotal evidence circulating in the coffee shops of the South Korean capital suggests there has also been a run on home-wall safes, but safemakers are not commenting. President Kim Young-Sam announced a ban on financial transactions in false names Thursday night to the horror of those with assets stashed away from the prying eyes of the taxmen and anti-graft watchdogs under fictitious names in the bank and brokerage accounts.

## Indonesia sets life-expectancy goal of 70

JAKARTA (AFP) — President Suharto vowed Monday to step up health programmes in the aim of extending Indonesian life expectancy to around 70 years in the next century. "By the end of the 25-year development (plan), we will try to see to it that life expectancy will be around 70 years," Mr. Suharto said in an annual address on the eve of Indonesia's National Day. Indonesia embarks on its second 25-year long-term development plan next April. Since 1970, life expectancy has risen from 43 to 65 years, one of the highest among developing countries.

## Abkhazia pullback partially suspended

MOSCOW (AFP) — Georgian and Abkhazian forces have suspended their withdrawal from one of two conflict zones amid mutual accusations of violating a force disengagement accord, officials from both sides said Monday.

Abkhazian leader Vladislav Ardzimba, alleging that Georgian troops had not pulled back as planned, ordered a halt to the departure from Abkhaz territory of volunteers from other parts of the Caucasus in southern Russia, a spokesman for the Abkhaz parliament told AFP by telephone.

A Georgian Defence Ministry spokesman told an AFP reporter in Tbilisi that the pullback of Georgian troops was halted Monday in response to Mr. Ardzimba's suspension order.

"The first Georgian units and military hardware were already prepared to leave Abkhazia, but

following the decree of Mr. Ardzimba, Georgia suspended the withdrawal of its troops from the western front," the ministry spokesman said.

The western front refers to battle lines along the Gumista River north of the Abkhazian capital, Sukhumi. There were no reports of delays in the pullbacks of forces from a second front further south at Ochamchira.

The Abkhaz parliament spokesman said Mr. Ardzimba ordered the volunteers from the Confederation of Caucasus Mountain Peoples to delay their departure from Abkhazia due to Georgia's failure to comply with the disengagement timetable.

Under the terms of a timetable, these volunteers, who account for about one-third of the armed units who have fought alongside Abkhazian separatist forces, were to have left Abkhazian terri-

tory Monday.

But the spokesman said the suspension order was given in response to an admission by Georgian authorities Sunday that their pullout was being delayed by Georgian nationalist groups in the region opposed to the withdrawal who were interfering with logistics.

The Ardzimba decree applied only to the non-Abkhaz "goodwill volunteers" and was "not aimed at bringing on the collapse of the process of resolving the conflict in Abkhazia," the parliamentary Press Service said, according to ITAR-TASS.

A Russian general who is a member of the tripartite commission supervising the disengagement said military hardware had been withdrawn from frontline positions but criticised both sides for failing to implement the withdrawal plan on schedule, ITAR-TASS said.

## Pope ends U.S. trip

DENVER, Colorado (R) — Pope John Paul II concluded his third trip to the United States Sunday, crusading against abortion and imploring American Catholics to take up the defence of life and "preach it from the rooftops."

"The culture of life means respect for nature and protection of God's work of creation. In a special way it means respect for human life from the first moment of conception until its natural end," he said in a speech before leaving.

His closing remarks reflected the theme of the Pope's four-day visit to participate in World Youth Day festivities.

The departure ceremonies Sunday night were attended by Vice President Al Gore, who praised the Pope for his support of the environment and said the United States joined the Pope in opposing those who "heap contempt upon his creation."

At every stop the Pope took the opportunity to express his disapproval of abortion, either implicitly or explicitly.

Sunday was among the busiest days of a week-long trip that also took him to Jamaica and Mexico. He delivered a sermon to at least 350,000 people at an open-air mass in a park 15 miles (24 km) southeast of Denver at the close of the youth pageant.

The mass was not without problems. Some 7,000 at the park needed medical treatment for dehydration and other ailments.

Earlier, on Saturday, a 61-year-old man suffered a heart attack during a prayer vigil. He was pronounced dead at the hospital.

The Pope, who Saturday condemned what he called an anti-life mentality in the United States, returned Sunday to the issue dividing U.S. Catholics and America in general.

Speaking in a strong voice and raising it every time he uttered the word "life," the Pope denounced "a culture of death" which he said was seeking to impose itself on society.

## Taiwan ruling party pledges reform

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan's ruling Nationalist Party, facing the most serious challenge to its power in four decades, opened a key party congress Monday pledging internal democratic reform.

Taiwan President Lee Teng-Hui, the party chairman, told 2,100 delegates to the Nationalists' 14th congress that the party was threatened by internal factional struggles and growing political opposition.

"In recent years, pluralism in society has led to differences in political ideology among our comrades, posing a severe challenge to us in elections," he said in an opening speech at a plush Taipei convention centre.

"Implementing internal reform is more difficult than tackling external challenges, but our goal has been set and we must overcome all obstacles," Mr. Lee said.

Several rebel delegates waved banners and shouted demands for action to reduce the chairman's power, such as barring delegates appointed by Mr. Lee from voting in party elections.

"The party faces a severe crisis because of its poor leadership," said delegate Fu Kuen-Chen, a member of a rebel faction that accuses party leaders of failing to ban corruption and dragging their feet on reform.

About 20 supporters of a conservative Nationalist faction, denouncing Mr. Lee as a "dictator," clashed briefly with club-wielding police outside the convention centre. No serious injuries were reported.

The seven-day congress is expected to introduce more democratic procedures to choose party leaders, electing the chairman by secret ballot instead of acclamation.

## Cranes moved in to clear rubble in collapsed Thai hotel

NAKHON RATCHASIMA, Thailand (AFP) — As light rain drizzled Monday on the wreckage of a collapsed hotel in this northern Thai city, rescue workers began using heavy equipment to clear the mound of rubble with little hope of pulling out more survivors.

As cranes, caterpillars and trucks moved in, three days after the Royal Plaza Hotel crumbled without warning, killing at least 86, no cries for help could be heard as they had before from the giant pile of concrete, twisted steel and shattered glass.

"We haven't heard anything since 1:00 a.m. today," a relief official said.

There were widespread fears that time was running out for survivors because of injury and lack of oxygen, food and water.

The death toll looked likely to rise further as rescue officials said an unspecified number of people were still believed to be trapped and among the more than 220 injured people taken to hospitals many were in a serious condition.

Rescue workers, fearing a further collapse, had so far used heavy machinery only in outlying areas of the wreckage where they were certain nobody was left alive.

But, Monday morning as only two corpses, one of a man and the other of a woman, were pulled out of the hotel ruins cranes began clawing through the rubble, loading debris on trucks.

Among the last survivors to date to be rescued was a 29-year-old mother of two whose legs were amputated to free her from the rubble in a dramatic on-site operation late Sunday night.

"I'm still strong," Maneewan Kittisakphon told Thai Television reporters from her hospital bed.

She said that throughout the ordeal she had prayed to the soul of her dead father to ask that her life be spared as she had a son of 10 and an eight-year-old daughter to take care of.

The woman, who worked for the hotel as a maid, had been trapped for almost 60 hours under tonnes of debris.

Officials at the Mahara Hospital of Nakhon Ratchasima, 260 kilometres northeast of Bangkok, where she was rushed after the operation said she looked likely to survive.

Mrs. Maneewan's legs were pinned under a slab of concrete. Doctors, who gave her painkillers, had it first been reluctant

to perform the double amputation for fear that she might bleed to death.

The amputation took three doctors, who crawled under the concrete to operate, some 10 minutes. They were assisted from the outside by a team of some 20.

Meanwhile, police officials said that hotel's general manager and three others, who had been detained Sunday for interrogation after they were charged with criminal negligence, had been freed on bail.

Speculation about the cause of the disaster has been increasingly focusing on newly-installed water tanks on the roof of the illegally extended hotel.

According to news reports, all three of the 50,000 liter tanks were full at the time of the collapse.



# Navratilova claims 165th singles title

MANHATTAN BEACH, California (AP) — Martina Navratilova rallied from a 1-5 second-set deficit on her favourite court to defeat top-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario 7-5, 7-6 (6-4) for her 165th career singles title Sunday in the Virginia Slims of Los Angeles.

Navratilova, 36, the second seed and defending champion, has reached the final 11 times and won eight titles on the fast hardcourt of the Manhattan Country Club. She improved to 32-4 this year with her fourth tournament victory.

The winner's check for \$75,000 pushed Navratilova's career earnings to more than \$19 million.

"Like me, she's over 30," she said. "I wish I had it," she said. "It just means I've been playing for a long time and done a really good job at winning the money but not a very good job at keeping the money."

Sanchez Vicario, whose only victory in 14 matches against Navratilova came in 1990 on clay, opened a 2-0 lead in the second set.

Navratilova trailed 0-30 on her serve before recovering to climb to 1-2. Sanchez Vicario then took over and won the next three games for a 5-1 lead, appearing ready to force a third set.

That's when Navratilova began her comeback — winning four straight games to tie the set 5-5.

Sanchez Vicario served for the set twice during that stretch, but both times committed errors on game point.

Energized by her improved play and a sellout crowd of 6,166 cheering her on, Navratilova served a love game to go up 6-5. She was two points from victory when Sanchez Vicario hit a crosscourt forehand on the line to tie the set 6-6.

"I just wasn't going to give it to her; she had to earn it," Navratilova said. "She wasn't able to close the door. So I said thank you very much, I'll slide right through."

Navratilova dominated the tiebreaker, going up 3-0, then 6-1.

"Game, set, match," chair umpire Jan Ryan announced before realizing the match wasn't over.

"That surprised me and the crowd started screaming," Sanchez Vicario said. "I don't think she's a very good umpire."

She scowled, turned her back and waved her hands as if to dismiss Ryan in the chair. Sanchez Vicario felt it was another officiating error in a match that had other controversial calls.

Sanchez Vicario became irritated as she served for the first set at 5-4, 15-15 and Ryan overruled a linesman's call in the corner. She eventually lost the game and the set.

# Black Sunday for American soccer giants

CONTEVIDEO (AFP) — The hopes of Argentina's World Cup hopes of Argentina fell very hard and Brazil were denied in the segments of South American qualifiers Sunday, who took away and, to rub insult into injury, nor last month, with countries had a player sent to the hospital.

Diego Simeone received his fifth yellow card in a game against Argentina, and in a game against Argentina, he was sent off for a second yellow card.

With five world titles between 5-5 per cent of them, a World Cup without the product (GDP) of the two premier nations is seen as almost unthinkable.

But if the half-way positions remain the same, Brazil, third in Group B, would fail to qualify, and Argentina, second in Group A, would have to face Australia in a final berth.

Marcio Santos put Brazil a goal ahead in the 28th minute, but one of Uruguay's five Italian exports on the pitch, Daniel Fonseca, levelled the score with 22 minutes remaining to continue Brazil's poor sequence of results.

Just one win in four matches is a disappointing record for a team which has never failed to qualify for the World Cup. But they do play their next four matches at home, which gives them a strong ray of hope.

South American champions Argentina, who have appeared in three of the last four World Cup finals, had an even worse time than Brazil.

With 70,000 fans roaring on Colombia in the metropolitan Stadium, they had the perfect start when Ivan Valencia, fed by Carlos Valderrama, scored in the second minute.

Valderrama, known for his lavish hairstyles, was again instrumental in the second goal, as he this time fed Adolfo Valencia, who made no mistake eight minutes after the break.

Argentina at least claimed a consolation goal, when Medina Bello took advantage of a slip in the Colombian defence in the 88th minute, but they still suffered their first loss in three games.

# GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAHANAH HIRSHI  
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FRANCE WINS WORLD TITLE

East-West vulnerable West

NORTH  
♠ Q 8  
♥ Q J 10 9 6  
♦ 7 5  
♣ Q J 10 4

WEST  
♠ 9 7 6 4 3  
♥ A 7  
♦ A 2  
♣ K 8

EAST  
♠ 5 3 2  
♥ K 8 5  
♦ K 10 9 3  
♣ A 5 3 2

SOUTH  
♠ K 10  
♥ A 3 2  
♦ A K 7 6  
♣ A 8 7

The bidding:  
West North East South  
1 ♠ Pass Pass 3 NT  
Pass 3 NT Pass 3 NT  
Pass Pass Pass  
Opening lead: Ace of ♠

Unop only its two most experienced partnerships throughout the final, France defeated the United States to win the 9th World Bridge Team Olympiad in Salomaggiore, Italy. France also won the first Olympiad in 1960.

Star of the French team was its enforcer, Paul Chemla. On this deal from the semifinal match against the Netherlands, he became declarer at four hearts. His jump to two no trump unthinkingly showed a balanced hand of (18-19 points, and

# World Athletics Championships

## Linford Christie proves a point; Drechsler captures long jump

### Noureddine Morceli drops boycott threat

STUTTGART (Agencies) — No doubts, no asterisks, no what-ifs this time. Linford Christie is undeniably the world's fastest human.

The British sprinter hacked up his 100-metre victory at the Barcelona Olympics with an emphatic win Sunday night over a star-packed field at the World Championships, clocking 9.87 seconds — the second fastest time in history.

Christie, 33, complained he never got the respect he deserved after his Barcelona victory. Scarcely said the Olympic field was "soft," because world record-holder Carl Lewis was missing.

But on a clear and muggy evening at Gottlieb-Daimler Stadium, Christie took on perhaps the finest 100-metre field ever assembled and ran the best race of his life.

"No one can say that not everyone was here," Christie said. "Everybody was here. Nobody was missing. It's nice to beat everybody. I proved I'm the best. This is the happiest night of my life."

Lewis, the three-time world champion, was there. So was Andre Cason, the current top American sprinter who ran 9.94 in the semifinals.

Frank Fredericks of Namibia and Dennis Mitchell of the United States, who finished 2-3 in Barcelona, were there. The field also included Nigeria's Daniel Effiong, the previous 1993 leader, and world indoor 60-metre indoor champion Bruny Surin of Canada.

"They tried to devalue his gold medal from Barcelona," said Britain's team manager, Joan Allison. "This has finally shut them up."

Running in lane 4, Christie got off to what he said was his best start ever. Mitchell was actually the fastest out of the blocks, but Christie surged to the front in the first 20 metres and led comfortably all the way to the finish.

"I wanted to be out of the blocks before Cason," Christie said. "Before you could say the 'B' in bang, I was out there."

Cason, last out of the blocks, recovered to finish second in 9.92. Mitchell took third in 9.99 and Lewis, last with 30 metres left, put on a late surge to finish fourth in 10.02.

"The race was a piece of genius," said British team coach Frank Dick. "He crafted a masterpiece."

Even Christie said he was surprised by his time — just one-hundredths of a second off the world record set by Lewis at the 1991 World Championships in Tokyo.

"I thought it would take 9.91 or 9.90," he said. "I never thought I could run this quick."

The tone was set in the semifinals when Cason blasted his way to victory in 9.94, topping his 9.96 clocking of the previous day and marking the seventh fastest time ever.

Christie won the other semifinal in 9.97, the second best performance of his career — next only to his 9.92 at the 1991 World Championships.

"Andre posted some superb times," Christie said. "I admit it did get me a little nervous. But I'm experienced, I've been there before. I knew it was in me to run those times. I was able to dig a bit deeper and bring that experience out."

After winning the final, Christie turned to the crowd and waved his fingers in a sharp-shooter salute as if to show that he had

When she won her first title in Helsinki in 1983, Drechsler was the youngest champion, now she is 38.

"I remember I was very excited after that victory (in 1983)," she said. "I am very happy tonight. It is very nice, but it is 10 years later."

"God, so many things have happened since then."

She got married. She had a son. Her country ceased to exist. She finally beat Joyner-Kersey. She became Olympic champion. Drechsler was born in Jena, in what was then East Germany. She was one of East Germany's top athletes and one of the few to survive at the top after the two German states merged and East Germany's powerful sports system became a memory.

Drechsler said she plans to be at the 1994 Olympics in Atlanta, unless something else happens — like another addition to the family and her three-year-old son Toni.

"It's difficult to say, but if it happens, it happens," she said with a laugh.

Gunnell off to bright start; JJK upset in 100 metres hurdles

Olympic women's 400 metres hurdles champion Sally Gunnell of Britain got off to a bright start with an easy win in her opening heat at the World Athletics Championships Monday.

Gunnell led from start to finish, clocking 55.06 seconds to beat German Silvia Rieger by more than a second even though she eased up in the final straight.

Also through into Tuesday's semifinals were all the other favourites with the best time of the first round set by Russian Margarita Ponomareva in 54.68 seconds.

Defending world champion Tatyana Ledovskaya of Belarus won her heat in 55.37 seconds but there was a defeat for American Sandra Farmer-Patrick, who finished second to Gunnell at last year's Barcelona Olympics.

al was billed as an all-German battle between Drechsler and her young compatriot Susen Tiedtke. It never happened.

Tiedtke's best jump of 6.54 came in her first attempt and she failed to make the gold-medal cut of eight jumps. She ended ninth, watched by her fiancée, American long jumper Joe Greene.

On the other hand, Drechsler had four jumps over seven metres to capture her second world title.

She jumped 7.09 in her second attempt to take the lead, had 7.11 for the winning distance in the fourth, 7.10 in the fifth and again 7.09 in the sixth.

This brought to 113 the number of jumps over seven metres in competition for Drechsler. Her personal best is 7.48, four centimetres outside the world record.

Larisa Berezhnaya of Ukraine took the silver medal at 6.98, while Renata Nielsen of Denmark clinched the bronze at 6.76.

"I was really nervous at the start, in the first jump I had problems with my run-up," Drechsler said. "But after the seven-metre jump in the second attempt, I knew things could work out today."

She has now won 17 of 18 her competitions this year, losing only to Tiedtke, in the high-altitude Italian resort of Sestriere.

Joyner-Kersey is only competing in the heptathlon in Stuttgart. Without the American, the fin-

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## Husseini: Israel must admit it is talking with PLO

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel must acknowledge it is negotiating with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the leader of the Palestinian peace talks team said Monday after meeting a PLO official in occupied Jerusalem for the first time.

"This person has been appointed by (PLO Chairman) Yasser Arafat and his presence contributes to the delegation's work," said peace team leader Faisal Husseini after the Palestinian delegation had talks with Hassan Abdul Rahman, the organization's representative in Canada.

"We must continue on this road until it becomes clear to all, including Israel, that this country is for all Palestinians and they have every right to participate in the work to have their independent state," he told the French news agency (AFP).

Israel will only negotiate with Palestinians from the occupied territories, refusing to allow the exiled PLO leadership to attend the peace talks.

Mr. Abdul Rahman arrived in the occupied West Bank a week ago when he was granted an entry permit from the Israeli military authorities after his mother died.

Monday's meeting was the first in occupied Jerusalem between a Palestinian delegation and a PLO official. They discussed the peace process and preparation for the 11th session of bilateral negotiations with Israel, set to begin Aug. 30 in Washington.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Sunday that official PLO statements from Tunis made no mention of the inclusion of members of the Palestinian delegation in the PLO's oversight committee "so there is, therefore, no change in their status."

Mr. Abdul Rahman, head of the PLO Information Centre in Washington from 1974 to 1992, is due to become one of the Palestinian delegation's chief advisers at the bilateral talks.

Israel has said it will continue to talk to the Palestinian delegation, even though the PLO designated its members as its representatives at a meeting in Tunis last week.

After a meeting to sort out differences between the delegation and the exiled PLO leadership in Tunis, the delegation members became part of a committee overseeing the negotiations, headed by Mahmoud Abbas, a member of the organization's Executive Committee.

The office of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks denied reports of a split among negotiators Sunday, while one negotiator went public with a demand to sack most of the team.

The report of a fiery meeting

among the delegates on Aug. 7 was published in the Hadashot newspaper.

They said some negotiators blasted the PLO leadership as corrupt and self-serving, with Mr. Husseini saying it should be toppled.

The reports were "untrue and unfounded," a delegation statement said.

According to Hadashot, the delegates fiercely debated whether the PLO leadership was undercutting them by presenting the United States with more flexible position papers.

"We have to topple this leadership. It is incapable and inept," Mr. Husseini was quoted as saying.

Delegate spokeswoman Hanan Asbawi also criticized the PLO leadership, saying it was uninterested in the residents of the occupied territories.

"They are casting aside the youth and sacrificing them for their own interests," Dr. Asbawi was quoted as saying.

The delegation office in Jerusalem said the minutes were fictitious.

"These transparent attempts at driving a wedge between the Palestinian delegation and its leadership are part of a campaign of distortion," the statement said.

Since the reported meeting, three of the delegates had threatened to resign, but appeared to have worked out their differences after meeting with PLO leaders in Tunisia.

But negotiator Faisal Abu Meidan said Sunday that Haidar Abdul Shafi should replace Mr. Husseini as overall team chief, after the latter's noisy clash with Mr. Arafat last week.

"This man means for me credibility," Mr. Abu Meidan said of his fellow Gazan.

Dr. Abdul Shafi, as head of the team to the bilateral talks, was considered head of the team until earlier this year, when the position of joint bilateral-multilateral team chief was created for Mr. Husseini.

Mr. Abu Meidan, a lawyer, said most team members should be replaced with professionals assigned specific roles.

"I suggest to reorganise all the delegation and to give them a job description... actually we need now for the next year, or for the next stage, a delegation of professionals," Mr. Abu Meidan told Israel Radio.

Mr. Meidan said the only top member of the team he felt should retain his post was Dr. Abdul Shafi.

"He is the umbrella of the delegation. He is the only man who should still stay in the top of this delegation... this man means for me credibility," he said.

## U.S.: Bosnian Serbs still under strike threat

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Bosnian Serb strangulation of the Bosnian capital persists and they remain under threat of air strikes despite withdrawal from strategic hilltops near Sarajevo, the State Department said Monday.

State Department spokesman Mike McCurry also said Washington would airlift 100 more emergency medical cases from Bosnia to the United States for treatment and would facilitate visas for Bosnian athletes being brought to the United States to train for the Olympics.

Mr. McCurry said U.S. officials have seen the United Nations certification of the Serbs withdrawal from Mount Igman and Mount Bjelasnica (see page 8), but he stressed: "...The withdrawal from the mountaintops was a necessary step but it is certainly not an entirely sufficient step. We need to see the strangulation of Sarajevo ceased."

Until then, "...the warning that we have issued to the Serbs certainly remains in effect," he told reporters.

The United States previously had accepted more than 100 emergency medical cases from Bosnia but will increase that number by another 100," said Mr. McCurry.

He admitted publicly over the plight of a Bosnian girl who was airlifted to London for medical treatment had triggered a new international response to such cases.

Bosnian Vice-President Ejup Ganic demanded the dismissal of U.N. spokesman Barry Frewer, accusing him of lying by suggesting earlier in the day that Sarajevo was no longer under siege from Bosnian Serbs.

In a letter read over Bosnian government radio, Mr. Ganic declared Commander Frewer persona non grata and called on U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to have him recalled.

The letter was also addressed

to General Jernan Cot, the commander of the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Ganic said Mr. Frewer, a Canadian, was guilty of a "serious lie" at a press conference when he repeatedly refused to describe the Bosnian capital as being under Serbian siege.

At the press conference, Mr. Frewer said the military situation around Sarajevo was calm and that while it remained encircled by Bosnian Serb forces, he would not describe the city as besieged.

Peace talks resume

Leaders of Bosnia's warring factions resumed peace talks Monday to try to resolve deep differences over the internal boundaries of the republic's future map.

Almost immediately, the leaders agreed to allow U.N. military observers to go anywhere in the country, conference spokesman John Mills said 45 minutes after the talks got under way in Geneva.

"This is an important decision, part of the opening up of Bosnia-Herzegovina," Mr. Mills said, adding that it created an atmosphere of trust for the talks.

It took two weeks of pressure and delicate negotiation to persuade Bosnia's Muslim president, Alija Izetbegovic, to return to the bargaining table. He has reluctantly agreed to a Serb-Croat proposal to carve up the country into three ethnic states, but seemingly intractable differences remain over the frontiers and the future status of the capital, Sarajevo.

Serbs and Croats, who control about 90 per cent of Bosnia between them, have offered the Muslim-led government almost 30 per cent of the republic for its state. But the region is landlocked between hostile Serbs and Croats.



SCRAMBLE TO SAFETY: Rescue workers scramble for safety frightened by a small tremor as the rubble settles Monday at the site of Royal Plaza Hotel which collapsed, killed 85 people (see page 8)

## Iraq: U.N. talks may be derailed

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq told its people on Monday it expected politically motivated enemies in the West to use trumped-up human rights charges to block its efforts to end almost three years of crippling trade sanctions.

Iraq plans to send a high-ranking technical delegation to New York in late August or early September to ask senior U.N. weapons experts what other Gulf war ceasefire obligations it has to honour to have the embargo eased or lifted.

"Iraq has honoured 95 per cent of obligations under 687 (the main ceasefire resolution)," the government newspaper Al Jumhuriyah said. "What remains are secondary issues and technical details... which may be settled down during the forthcoming dialogue in New York."

But the article, the first comment by an official Iraqi newspaper on the talks, warned Iraqis that it may not be as simple as that.

"There are ready and open files to be used and probably the same pretexts will be raised in the forthcoming meeting in New York," it said. "What is expected also is that the enemy camp will not halt its conspiracy against Iraq."

Iraq and the U.N. agreed on the talks last month during a visit to Baghdad by Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. special commission scrapping Iraqi weapons of mass destruction under the ceasefire terms.

The visit defused a standoff over the use of monitoring cameras, pending the outcome of the talks, but Iraq wants to use the talks to ease or end the trade blockade, which was imposed after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait and shut off its lifeblood oil exports.

Al Jumhuriyah said it expected

Max van Der Stoep, special investigator for the U.N. Human Rights Commission, to be ready to chip in with "reports prepared beforehand by states known for their hostility towards Iraq."

Mr. Van Der Stoep told a similar meeting last year that Iraq was using indiscriminate shelling and gigantic irrigation projects to weaken the 3,000-year-old inaccessibility of the Shi'ite marsh Arabs in the south.

The exiled Shi'ite opposition, whose post-Gulf war revolt against President Saddam Hussein was crushed, says 4,500 people bled to death in the marshes before so far taken refuge in Iran in face of an Iraqi offensive and attempts to drain the area.

Iraq vehemently denies the charges. It says its offensive is against Iranian infiltrators and Iran-backed army deserters who carry out hit-and-run raids on civilian targets.

A report in Babel, a newspaper published by President Saddam's eldest son Uday, on Monday described the marsh Arabs who took refuge in Iran as "renegades."

The Security Council has linked any easing of sanctions to compliance with the various ceasefire resolutions.

Al Jumhuriyah urged the Iraqi delegation to the talks to be ready to face allegations from "the representative of the godless regime in Kuwait who will present more than a lie for which he will shed crocodile tears."

Kuwait demands that Iraq honour all Security Council resolutions, including its recognition by Baghdad as an independent entity within the newly-U.N. drawn borders.

It also demands that Baghdad return hundreds of Kuwaitis it says went missing during the Iraqi

occupation from August 1990 to February 1991. Baghdad says no Kuwaitis remain in Iraq.

'Iran using PoWs'

Iraq accused Iran Monday of using Iraqis captured during their 1980-1988 war as political pawns and told it to release them.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman, quoted by the Iraqi News Agency, rejected suggestions from Tehran that Iraq was still holding 5,000 Iranian prisoners of war (PoWs).

"The regime in Iran... continues using the issue of PoWs as a political card to realise dubious targets," the spokesman said. "Iraq demands the Iranian regime to free all Iraqi prisoners registered with the ICRC and also those not registered."

Iraq and Iran give conflicting PoW figures following a series of mass prisoner exchanges. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) says it keeps records on 20,000 Iraqi prisoners in Iran and around 1,000 Iranians in Iraq.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said Iran still kept "tens of thousands of Iraqi PoWs, registered and non-registered" and rejected Tehran's suggestion that it still held Iranians.

"The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Iraq denies false and misleading statements by Iranian officials and confirms that Iraq had set free all Iranian PoWs," he added.

The spokesman said only a few Iranian soldiers remained in Iraq and "these refused to go home and the ICRC has visited them several times and made sure of their desire not to return."

The only other Iranian prisoners in Iraq, he added, were infiltrators held for crimes committed during post-Gulf war unrest.

## Iraq sells gasoline to Kurds

ERBIL (AFP) — The sanctions-hit Iraqi government is raising its reserves of dollars by selling gasoline to Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq, Kurdish officials and businessmen said here.

A Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) leader said the move was also designed to weaken the economy of the region, which Baghdad lost control of after the 1991 Gulf war, by siphoning off foreign currency reserves.

Since a contract was signed with two Kurdish companies last week, Iraq's Sadira company has shipped eight million litres of petrol and diesel from Kirkuk to Sulaymaniyah, company managers Abu Bakr Abdul Rahman and Khayrullah Saleh told AFP.

The contract is for 40 million litres and more contracts are possible, a PUK official in Sulaymaniyah, Cemal Aziz, said. There was no dollar figure for the value of the contract.

Baghdad made the offer to sell gasoline for dollars shortly after it suspended negotiations last month with the United Nations aimed at allowing the export of limited quantities of oil under U.N. supervision, the officials said.

United Nations sanctions imposed after Iraq's Aug. 2, 1990 invasion of Kuwait banned all exports of Iraqi oil.

Mr. Aziz, the PUK leader in Sulaymaniyah, said: "We are happy with any opportunities to resolve the fuel problem for the coming winter."

"But for the moment, we are not so happy about the actual practice, the fuel paid in dollars is too expensive. People still cannot afford to buy it," Mr. Aziz told AFP.

"The Iraqi government made this offer because of a lack of foreign currency on their own market and also to get dollars out of the Kurdish region," he said.

## Majlis rejects finance minister

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's parliament on Monday rejected the reappointment of Finance Minister Mohsen Nourbakhsh, a key figure in President Hashemi Rafsanjani's drive to reform the economy, state-run television reported.

The loss of Mr. Nourbakhsh was one of the heaviest political blows to Mr. Rafsanjani since he was first elected in July 1989, reflecting rejection of his economic policy.

Mr. Rafsanjani was re-elected to a second four-year term in June, but with a much-reduced majority that reflected public discontent at the moribund economy, which the president has been unable so far to revitalise.

Parliament gave a vote of confidence to all 23 members of Mr. Rafsanjani's proposed cabinet except for Mr. Nourbakhsh, the television said in a report monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

Mr. Nourbakhsh spearheaded drives to privatise state-run industries, slash subsidies on basic commodities and streamline the multiple exchange-rate system, policies that were bitterly opposed by many members of parliament.

Sources in Tehran, who spoke to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Nourbakhsh won the votes of 127 out of the 261 deputies present in Monday's parliament vote.

Under the Iranian system, the appointment of cabinet ministers must be approved by more than half of the deputies present. Seventy-five deputies voted against him, while the others abstained.

The U.S.-educated Nourbakhsh was appointed by Mr. Rafsanjani in August 1989.

A former governor of the central bank, he advocated a tight-money policy. During his tenure at central bank the inflation rate has kept at 10-20 per cent year, a relatively low figure for Iran. It

rose to 50 per cent after he left.

Mr. Nourbakhsh was considered the key financial figure and a leading technocrat in Mr. Rafsanjani's cabinet, one among several Western-educated figures brought into the cabinet four years ago.

Last week, Mr. Rafsanjani reshuffled his cabinet but Mr. Nourbakhsh was among the ministers who kept his job. The reshuffle had been expected following Mr. Rafsanjani's reelection earlier in the year.

Although Mr. Nourbakhsh's economic policy was heavily criticised in the lead-up to Monday's parliament vote, he had still been expected to win a vote of confidence.

Mr. Rafsanjani won 63 per cent of the vote in June's elections, far short of predictions and of the 94.5 per cent that swept the middle-ranking cleric into office four years earlier.

Observers said the decline in support and low voter turnout appeared to reflect widespread dissatisfaction over a deteriorating economy.

Analysts have said they believe the president will forge ahead with his reforms, although that must now be cast into doubt following the unexpectedly strong opposition from parliament, early in his second term.

The majority of parliament members elected to parliament in the last poll in 1992 were initially seen as supporters of Mr. Rafsanjani. But many have since joined forces with his radical rivals who oppose privatisation and foreign investment.

Mr. Rafsanjani shied away from major economic restructuring during his first term, fearing its impact on the poor, who make up much of his following.

Iran is still suffering from the devastation of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, with high inflation and unemployment and a shortage of much-needed foreign investment.

## Libya to defy West's ultimatum — paper

TRIPOLI (Agencies) — Libya will defy an Oct. 1 ultimatum set by the West to hand over suspects wanted in connection with the 1988 Lockerbie aircraft bombing, a daily newspaper said Monday.

"We vehemently reject the language of threats," said Al Zaf Al Akhdar newspaper. "We will not do anything under warnings or threats."

The daily is the organ of the revolutionary committees created by Muammar Qadhafi, which control political life in Libya.

The newspaper said the ultimatum issued by the United States, the United Kingdom and France flew in the face of international opinion. It pointed out that the U.N. Security Council, which has also called for the handover of the suspects, "has not issued either threats or warnings."

But it underlined Libya's willingness to "keep the door open for solutions to be found to this thorny problem," calling for an advance agreement on where the trial would take place.

Washington, London and Paris demanded on Aug. 13 that Tripoli hand over by Oct. 1 two Libyan citizens wanted in connection with the December 1988 bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland in which 270 people died.

France also wants to question two Libyan suspects over the blowing up of a French airliner in 1989 which killed 170 people.

Libya has proposed that the suspects be tried in a "neutral" country, complaining the demands were a breach of its sovereignty and that the suspects would otherwise not get a fair trial.

The United States, the United Kingdom and France are permanent members of the Security Council, which adopted the Resolution 731 calling for the handover of the suspects to the UN.

The sanctions currently comprise air and military embargoes. The three countries are pushing for them to be extended to cover finance, oil and technological necessities.

"Once again we reject the language of threat, and under the language of threats and deadlines we reject everything," Al Zaf Al Akhdar declared.

Major European buyers of Libya's crude were likely to anticipate an oil embargo as part of increased United Nations sanctions if Tripoli failed to hand over

the two men for trial in the United States or Britain, diplomats said on Monday.

"It is astonishing that the three Western states... set a deadline of such scale which took, as they recognise, several years of investigations and inquiries," the foreign affairs ministry said Sunday.

A senior Tripoli-based European diplomat familiar with the Lockerbie case told Reuters: "If we get into escalation, we will arrive at a full oil embargo. I expect Germany, Italy and Spain, the major European buyers of Libya's crude, to anticipate an oil embargo."

Possibilities could include, at a first stage, an embargo on imports of equipment for the oil industry, such as production or refining machinery, and a freeze on assets.

An "oil-related embargo" could cripple the Libyan economy, experts said. The country had virtually no resources other than its daily output of 1.35 million barrels of high-quality crude.

Colonel Qadhafi said recently his country was earning between \$8 and \$10 billion a year from oil. Libyans have been pressing U.S. oil companies and European partners in oil to lobby against an embargo, diplomats said.

"The Libyans believe the major European buyers depend too much of their oil, and so the buyers will lobby against an oil embargo. The Libyans are wrong. Buyers can prepare themselves and find other sources of energy," the diplomat said.

"France was a major client of the Libyan oil for years, but it has diverted itself from the Libyan oil without big losses," an oil expert said.

Libya's oil production was already partly affected by a trade embargo — including oil industry equipment — imposed by the United States in 1986, oil experts said.

Oil industry sources said Libya was finding it hard to maintain production levels and wells were in bad shape because of the lack of U.S. technology. They said some fields would go into decline if further U.N. sanctions were imposed.

European and Arab diplomats in Tripoli said Libya appeared prepared to face the possibility of further sanctions.

"I don't see it deciding to surrender the two men," said a Western diplomat. "I think that fresh sanctions will start a new escalation in the conflict."

## U.S. said to reject plan

(Continued from page 1)

Arab-Israeli tracks of the peace process within the same timeframe," one official said.

But opponents of the idea said had the idea been accepted by the U.S. and Israel, Arab would have fulfilled a long-term wish of getting rid of Gaza and using this as an excuse to claim that it would have implemented U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338.

"It is an impractical suggestion because two timeframes will exist, and more important, the crucial issues of jurisdiction, Jerusalem and settlements would remain unresolved," a Tunis-based official said. "Furthermore, without massive funds, the Gaza-Jericho option would be an economic disaster."

"We will have entered into partial permanent status negotiations on the easier issues from a position of weakness," he said, pointing out that many Palestinians consider the interim period as an opportunity to gradually strengthen and improve conditions in the occupied territories.

"The U.S. told Palestinians that this option was a departure from the two-phased Madrid formula and was thus rejected," the official said.

## KLM hijack ends peacefully

(Continued from page 1)

Sheikh Abdul Rahman's lawyer said in New York the hijacking did not do sanction it.

"Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman did not sponsor the hijacking. He does not sanction what the hijacker did. It's something he knows nothing about," said Michael Warren.

The hijacker also demanded that U.N. sanctions against Serbia be more strictly enforced.

Egypt's state-owned Middle East News Agency said police were interrogating a Lebanese man who was sitting near Mr.

Gharib on the plane. But German police said they had no evidence Mr. Gharib had an accomplice.

Egyptian security sources said Mr. Gharib left Cairo last Monday for Tunisia where he spent several days before hijacking the plane.

They said Mr. Gharib had no criminal record apart from bouncing a few cheques.

He made frequent business trips to Europe, particularly Germany and the Netherlands, the sources said. He owned a brick factory and enjoyed a good reputation in his village of Badrasheen.

## Lebanon rules out security accord

(Continued from page 1)

85 to 90 per cent of the people who were displaced are now back in their villages. But many came back to destroyed houses," he told Reuters in Beirut.

"We estimate that approximately 1,500 houses are destroyed and another 1,000 partially destroyed and there is a greater number, maybe 10-15,000 with minor repairs to be made," he said.

The Lebanese government estimated that 10,000 homes were destroyed by the seven-day Israeli bombardment and a further 20,000 were severely damaged.

Mr. Elias said the U.N. aid programme to be launched in about a week would be worth between \$28 million and \$30 million with almost half for rebuilding homes and the rest for rehabilitating water supplies, sanitation, agriculture and the health sector.

## COLUMN 800000

### Baby saved from garbage compactor

BRISBANE, Australia (AFP) — A new-born baby wrapped in plastic and dumped in a rubbish bin was saved from being tipped into a compactor by a council garbage collector here Monday.

The baby, whom police named Mary Desley — in honour of the garbage collector — was taken to hospital where she was later said to be little the worse for her indignities although her low temperature was being monitored by anxious hospital staff.

A 30-year-old woman thought to be her mother was also admitted later in the day to the same hospital after seeking medical treatment, police said. She is expected to be interviewed Tuesday and a man was also assisting police with their inquiries. Mary, who weighed about 3.3 kilograms (7 pounds 4 ounces), was found naked apart from the white plastic wrapping after the garbage collector heard her crying in the bin. He took her to hospital then contacted police. A spokeswoman at the Mater Hospital said Mary was in a satisfactory condition after "a few cuddles" from the staff. "The staff are always professional but they seem to pay that little bit more attention when it's a sad or unusual circumstance," the spokeswoman said.

Pope's U.S. visit produces special vocabulary

DENVER (AP) — The pope visit also produced its own special vocabulary. The all-night vigil before Pope John Paul's World Youth Day mass Sunday, when thousands of kids bunked down in sleeping bags, and some in plastic garbage bags, was dubbed "God's Woodstock." The portable toilets at the site were nicknamed "Vat-cans." And of course, out here in the wide open spaces, the "Pope-mobile" was known as "the papal pickup."

U.K. lord marks 30 years of political lunacy

LONDON (R) — Screaming Lord Sutch, a self-styled nobleman who heads Britain's Monster Raving Loony Party, celebrated 30 years on the political fringe Sunday and vowed to win a seat in parliament one day. Lord Sutch, a pop singer whose top hats and leopardskin suits enliven the otherwise sober political scene, has fought and lost 36 local and general elections in his decade to highlight the inadequacy of career politicians. "I don't get disgruntled, some day I'll find a constituency where people are totally fed up with existing politicians and vote in the Monster Raving Loony Party," he said in a British radio interview. Lord Sutch threw a party on a bridge near London's houses of parliament Sunday to celebrate 30 years since his first by-election when, aged 22, he polled 208 votes to the constituency of Stratford-Upon-Avon. In the 1992 general election which returned Prime Minister John Major's Conservatives to power, Lord Sutch campaigned on a manifesto of turning the houses of parliament into a funpark and putting crocodiles into the River Thames. His 1963 manifesto included lowering the voting age to 18, abolishing school selection tests at 11 and ending the British Broadcasting Corporation's radio monopoly — all of which have since been carried out by real politicians. "I've put the fun back into politics. There were undertakers and old men running the country when I started and now we've got grey people running it," he said.

After bikinis, mayor goes after loafers

ROME (AP) — First the mayor banned bikinis. Now he's after loafers. Office loafers, that is. The kind who waste hours on the job leafing through newspapers at their desks. The mayor of Alessio prohibited the wearing of bikinis in the streets of his Italian Riviera resort last month. Now he has banned city employees from reading newspapers at work, the Corriere Della Sera newspaper of Milan reported Sunday. Mayor Roberto Avogadro is from the Northern League, a fast-growing, conservative party in northern Italy that backs cutting waste in the bloated public sector. The reading ban was sought by the city public works commissioner, Marco Melgrani, Corriere Della Sera reported. "I began with newspapers, next I'm going after computers," the daily quoted the commissioner as saying. "It may seem absurd but classic electronic games have been programmed into the city's computers. I found an employee who, instead of working, was fighting with monkey surrounded by electronic bananas."